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Inter-Arab Affairs

Information Meeting Opens in Tunis 24 Aug

LD2408203589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1442 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, Aug 24 (KUNA)—The 24th session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers opened here by a speech for its chairman and South Yemeni Information Minister Muhammad Jarhum calling for concentrated information campaign in support of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising].

Jarhum, who opened his speech by welcoming presence of his Egyptian counterpart Safwat al-Sharif following ten years absence, said that the concerted Arab media endeavor should also foil hostile (?provocations) which attempts to besmirch the Palestinian peoples' struggle.

The minister said that discussions during the current session should focus on the Arab media duties toward uniting Arab efforts in support of the tripartite Arab committee and the people of Lebanon to find a peaceful settlement to the Lebanese problem that maintain that Arab country's unity and national sovereignty.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi delivered a statement seconding Jarhum's call for boosting informational support to the Palestinian intifadah in a way deepening international backing.

Klibi further noted that the Arab media have an important message to carry namely to spread public awareness on dangers of the [word indistinct] feud fighting in Lebanon on that country itself in addition to the Arab nation.

The Arab League chief called for amalgamating regional and international efforts to end the impasse in the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations which have gone nowhere one year after its initiation.

He also called for maximum benefit of the Arab satellite to cope with the world's fast growing space technology. For his part the Egyptian information minister advocated progressing Arab media to compete with international advancement in this field.

Al-Sharif proposed forming working groups of directors of a number of Arab news agencies along with the president and secretary general of the federation of Arab news agencies to set plans for integration of those agencies' networks and their foreign bureaus.

The chairman then adjourned the opening session and the working meeting would meet later tonight to discuss recommendations by the 47th session of the Arab information experts who concluded sitting here last Tuesday [as received].

Egypt's Al-Sharif's Speech

NC2408171089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has said that Egyptian news media have always followed developments in the Arab world and sought to promote Arab national causes.

Delivering Egypt's speech at a meeting of Arab information ministers in Tunis, Al-Sharif said that Egyptian information organs have made great progress over the past 10 years in terms of coping with modern technology and scientific developments. Egyptian media, he added, flourished in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy and preserved their longstanding pan-Arab traditions. Given Egypt's vital role on the Arab scene, Al-Sharif said, the Egyptian media have a keen awareness of their special responsibilities toward the Arab people as a whole.

In his speech, Al-Sharif offered his vision of desirable developments in the field of Arab information. What we need, he said, are Arab media capable of speaking the language of the age, media that promote dialogue instead of confrontation and contradiction. Arab information, Al-Sharif said, should seek to redress certain imbalances on the current world scene, mostly by making the flow of information between the countries of the north and those of the south more equitable and balanced.

Al-Sharif said that Arab media must be objective and truthful, respectful of our traditions, and capable of coping with the pace of technological changes in the age of satellite coverage. Information flow among Arab countries, he said, is one of the underpinnings of Arab cooperation. Al-Sharif also called on Arab information organs to study the world's most advanced media and modify their standards accordingly. He also urged increased drama, cultural, and scientific programming.

MENA has reported that following the opening session of the Arab information ministers conference, the Arab ministers held a closed session in which they decided to include Al-Sharif's speech in the conference's agenda and treat it as a blueprint for Arab information cooperation in the coming stage.

UMA Official Received by Algeria's Bendjedid

LD2408210389 Algiers APS in English 1002 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Algiers, 24/8/89 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid received Wednesday here, Mohamed Seqat, secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], who handed him a mesage from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco.

After the audience, Seqat declared that the message deals with means of founding institutions of the union, notably the consultative council, due to be held in the coming month.

Meets With Tunisia's Ben Ali

LD2408210489 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Mr Mohamed Seqat, personal envoy of King Hassan II at the Presidential Palace in Carthage this morning. Mr Mohamed Djeri, secretary general of the presidency attended the meeting.

Mr Mohamed Seqat stated that he was honored to be received by the president and he handed him a written message from his brother King Hassan II, in his capacity as the current chairman of the presidium of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], concerning the consolidation of the bases of the Union's institutions and also concerning the first session of the consultative council, which might be held in Morocco during the coming months.

He concluded his statement by saying: I received the advice and opinions of the president concerning Arab and African issues. I will convey the opinions of President Ben Ali to King Hassan II.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Cited on Lack of Results From Dialogue

JN2408140889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] London, 24 Aug (INA)—PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi has stated that the road of liberation is the continuous militant action through the intifadah [uprising] and the daily struggle. In a statement to the London-based AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI published today, Qaddumi said: The dialogue with the U.S. Administration will not produce positive results because Washington cannot change its political course unless it feels that its interests are imperiled and that it is forced to respond to the Palestinian demands.

On the dialogue between the PLO and Syria, the PLO Political Department chief said that the atmosphere is not appropriate to hold dialogue with Damascus as long as the violence continues in Lebanon. He affirmed that this violence has harmed the Palestine question.

Qaddumi said that the Syrian forces should withdraw from Lebanon. He said: Their withdrawal will give the Lebanese forces an opportunity to meet and reach an agreement. The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies will also be given an opportunity to meet and elect a president, and then to discuss the issue of reforms in accordance with the popular demands, Qaddumi said.

Qaddumi added: We opposed the Syrian interference that resulted in the exacerbation of the situation in Lebanon and ignited the camps' war, leaving Israel to do whatever it likes in southern Lebanon.

Qaddumi praised Palestinian-Jordanian relations and Jordan's role concerning the Palestine question. Qaddumi said that our people in Jordan are one people and that the relationship with Jordan is a distinguished one.

Al-Hasan Hails Results of 'Arafat's Amman Visit

LD2408165689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1010 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 24 (KUNA)—Member of PLO's main stream Fatah organization Khalid al-Hasan has praised the outcome of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Amman and the Jordanian stands toward the Palestinian cause.

In a press statement, published here today by Kuwaiti newspaper "AL-ANBA'" Al-Hasan stressed that relationship between Jordan and Palestine was a strategic one necessitated by what he called as the dictatorship of geography and demography. He described earlier crises which punctuated bilateral relations as transient. Al-Hasan affirmed that maintaining stability and order in Jordan were high in the priorities of the PLO.

"Any harm on Jordan affects the Palestinian cause in the same time... The relationship between Jordan and Palestine is inseparable," he added.

Fatah-Uprising Denounces French 'Buildup'

JN2408171489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The official spokesman for the Fatah-Uprising has denounced the French military buildup off Lebanon's coast. In a news statement today, the spokesman, 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Nashshash, called these concentrations a flagrant interference in Lebanon's internal affairs designed to break up the country and impose capitulationist projects.

He emphasized total support for Lebanon's nationalist forces fighting for the country's unity and Arabism against a conspiracy implemented by 'Awn's clique and sponsored by the Zionist enemy and Saddam's fascist regime. Al-Nashshash urged all nationalist and pan-Arab forces to denounce France's meddling in Lebanon's domestic affairs and that a determined stand be taken in the interest of the unity and territorial integrity of the country.

Communists Condemn 'Blackmail'

JN2408201689 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The Revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party has condemned the French military buildup off the Lebanese coast, which comes at a time when the Lebanese crisis and Zionist piratical acts against south Lebanon are escalating. A party news statement said the French Government is trying to terrorize and blackmail the nationalist Lebanese forces, intimidate the Arab forces of confrontation and steadfastness, and pave the way for plans to liquidate the national Palestinian cause.

The statement added that the French Government is obstructing efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis in order to turn Lebanon into an arena where the Arab confrontation and steadfastness forces will exhaust themselves; and to clear the way for Zionist-colonialist intervention in the affairs of Lebanon and the Arab region.

The statement stressed that the Lebanese forces and their allies will hold out against the campaigns of pressure and extortion and will send the French fleets away from the Lebanese coast in disappointment and defeat.

Abu-Sharif Interviewed on Recent Developments

JN2208144689 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
21 Aug 89 p 22-23

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Paris by Fadiah al-Sharqawi—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sharqawi] I would like to start this discussion by shedding some light on the latest Fatah resolutions.

[Abu-Sharif] I am not a Fatah member.

[Al-Sharqawi] I know that. However, there are some questions on the progress made on the issue of settling the Palestine question that we would like you to clarify for us. For example, in the Fatah concluding statement, what in the past used to be the Arab-Zionist struggle, changed to become the Arab-Israeli dispute. It is well-known that a struggle is usually over territory, whereas a dispute is usually over borders. What does this change mean?

[Abu Sharif] The Fatah statement should not be scrutinized linguistically and grammatically, but should be seen from its general tendency. The general tendency is to support the program proposed by President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in November last year at the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the program he used when proposing his peace initiative in December last year in Geneva before the UN General Assembly. Fatah is the largest Palestinian organization which joined the PLO—this official structural organization—in 1968, and has governed the PLO ever since. This movement supported the program set by the PNC on 15 November legally but not executively; that is, the resolutions taken to declare independence or the independent state and accepting UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 181 in principle. The Fatah congress fully supported these resolutions.

[Al-Sharqawi] How do you explain the U.S. stand on those decisions?

[Abu-Sharif] The statement issued by Margret Tutwiler after the first piece of news was released on the Fatah statement was, in my opinion, inaccurate, premature, and useless, because, as she herself said, she made the statement before reading the document. I believe that a close reading of the statement will affirm that the Fatah congress supported Yasir 'Arafat's policy. We can also say that the PLO's program, which the overwhelming majority of PNC members voted for, is not a seasonal program. It draws a political line to find a strategic solution to the Middle East cause.

[Al-Sharqawi] Since you affirm that the program is strategic and not seasonal, how do you explain the absence of an implicit recognition of the Israeli entity, especially since this is one of the points the United States is holding against it?

[Abu-Sharif] True, this issue is absent. However, the statement fully supports the PNC resolutions. The PNC resolutions include all these political points.

[Al-Sharqawi] I wish to go back to the point about dispute and struggle. It was not explained clearly. Does this mean that the struggle has become over borders rather than territory?

[Abu-Sharif] Borders are territory also. We declared that our program is one to liberate the occupied Palestinian territory. We accept historic bargaining on the principle that two states are set up on the Palestinian territory—the State of Israel and the state of Palestine.

[Al-Sharqawi] The statement also mentioned continuing armed struggle. What does that mean? Is it to appease the military wing in Fatah or what?

[Abu-Sharif] Whoever said we stopped our armed struggle of the occupation? Resisting the occupation, according to the UN Charter, includes all the means and ways at the disposal of any people under occupation to defend themselves. For example, we did not seek to have a cease-fire in southern Lebanon with the Israeli enemy. Our right to defend ourselves with arms continues to exist as long as there are daily attacks. A few days ago, there was a raid on the camps in southern Lebanon which means it is our right to continue our defense. Whoever said that we had decided to stop practicing our right to self-defense even in using weapons? We did not cease fire. Also, whoever said that it is not the right of the Palestinian people, like any other people under occupation, to resist this occupation by all possible means?

We reserve this right. Over the past 2 years, we have chosen to resist the Israeli occupation with stones. We reserve the right to use all available means in due course; we may escalate the intifadah [uprising] by stopping stone-throwing.

[Al-Sharqawi] Shall I take it that the stone-throwing intifadah may be converted into an armed intifadah in the future?

[Abu-Sharif] I said we may step up the intifadah. I have a personal view on this.

[Al-Sharqawi] But how can the intifadah possibly be escalated without the use of arms?

[Abu-Sharif] By, for instance, sitting in the way of Israeli tanks; sitting in the roads to obstruct traffic. There are

various means, and we keep our options open. We decide when and how to escalate our resistance of the occupation and the type of weaponry used.

[Al-Sharqawi] Talking about the intifadah, some say that it is moving in a vicious circle and that it lost its old, desired political and propagandistic impact. Do you think the intifadah has exhausted its goals?

[Abu-Sharif] The intifadah is a move by a people that resist occupation. It has been going on for 21 months, giving more than 1,000 martyrs, 40,000 wounded, and 40,000 detainees, let alone destroyed houses and other pains and sacrifices. But, at the same time, the intifadah has given the Palestinian cause an impetus that would have been impossible without it. Resisting occupation is not a question of newspaper headlines or media interest, although this is important. I am not playing down the importance of press and media, but how can the international, regional, and even Arab media give due concern to the intifadah while Lebanon is subjected to destructive shelling? The world, undoubtedly, will be preoccupied with this methodical, destructive shelling of Lebanon because the least that can be said about the bloodshed in Lebanon is that it portrays Shamir before the world as an angel. This mad barbarianism reflects a sick mind possessing destructive weaponry. How can world media give due concern to the intifadah under the shadow of the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd and the emergence of the hostage crisis as the main issue? We know that the United States and the Western world in general deal with things unrealistically. Killing 2,000 Arabs, in their calculations, is not important, while the abduction of one American is more important. There is harmony between what some parties are doing in Lebanon and what Israel is doing; the aim is to obliterate the horrible crime being daily perpetrated in the occupied territories. Yesterday, a girl of no more than 3 ½ years was killed by four bullets in the head. I wonder what happens when a girl of the same age crosses the busiest Paris street? I am sure traffic will come to a halt and more than 1,000 people will come to her aid. I think the intifadah will be highlighted again when tension eases in Lebanon. As I said, resisting occupation, as far as we are concerned, is not a seasonal issue; it is a question of life or death. We reject slavery; who does not? The issue is not that of 10 days of resistance after which we go to relax. No, we are continuing; we have no choice but to resist occupation.

[Al-Sharqawi] Do you mean that the intifadah is still politically able to give the desired results?

[Abu-Sharif] We, as a resistance movement, know that our daily resistance of occupation has become like breathing air. The Israelis also know this. We want the Israelis to know that they cannot continue to exist on our lands, enslaving and using us, and that we will continue resisting them just as we breathe and eat our daily bread. Together with the other PLO activities, the intifadah is giving political results and scoring the hoped-for achievements on all levels.

[Al-Sharqawi] Let us go back to the Fatah statement. The statement says that the delegation that will participate in the settlement negotiations will be an independent Palestinian delegation. Does this mean that a joint Arab delegation will be ruled out? And, what will be the stand of the Arab countries on this?

[Abu-Sharif] We still believe that the final negotiations to find a political solution to the Middle East problem should take place through an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO and Israel in addition to the five permanent members of the Security Council under the supervision of the United Nations or any body chosen by the parties.

[Al-Sharqawi] Where are the Arab states?

[Abu-Sharif] Of course, the Arab countries will participate. What countries are involved in the issue then? These parties are the PLO, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Syria. We want all parties to participate in this conference so that the agreement will be stable.

[Al-Sharqawi] Khalid al-Hasan said—after the final statement was issued—that the U.S. stand is "ridiculous" and that the conferees were vigilant [hathirin] vis-a-vis the stand on the American policy.

[Abu-Sharif] Vigilant?

[Al-Sharqawi] Yes, these are his exact words. Does this mean that there is a fear that the United States would relinquish its plan?

[Abu-Sharif] In order not to repeat ourselves diplomatically, I believe that the overall political atmosphere of the Fatah congress was an honest expression of the overall political atmosphere among our people. There is a strong feeling of bitterness as a result of the American stand adopted so far. After 9 months of dialogue with the United States, this dialogue has not reached the expected results. This, of course, does not mean that we have lost hope. No. There is a continuous dialogue; and we will continue with it. The atmosphere is positive, although we want practical results that would give momentum to the American stand toward recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state similar to other peoples. The atmosphere of the Fatah congress was an expression of this bitterness. Also, there was a feeling of frustration because the international community has been unable to adopt tangible, practical steps—even to stop the pains of the Palestinian people and to prevent Israel from continuing its organized terrorism against our Palestinian people.

However, the feelings of bitterness and "frustration" do not mean that the conferees or the Palestinian people have lost hope or decided to stop or retreat. We will continue to abide by the political initiative launched by President Yasir 'Arafat at the UN General Assembly in Geneva last December. We do not consider this issue to be an occasional one, but continuous. This is in addition to the fact

that we strongly insist on resisting the occupation regardless of the circumstances, while at the same time working at the political and diplomatic levels to realize the Palestinian people's national, legitimate rights and national aspirations represented by self-determination and the establishment of the independent state.

[Al-Sharqawi] What is your opinion of Shamir's attempts to contain the intifadah through the series of talks which he is holding with a number of Palestinian figures from the occupied territories?

[Abu-Sharif] First, I would like to say that containing the intifadah, if not viewed as a joke, is certainly a delusion nursed in the minds of each of those who believe that the intifadah can be contained. The meetings held between Shamir and some of the Palestinians whom he summoned were crystal clear. The Palestinians whom Shamir met told him at the beginning and end of the talks that the PLO is their sole legitimate representative and that he has to go to Tunis, where the PLO, the only party qualified and authorized to negotiate, is headquartered if he wants to negotiate on the future of the Middle East. Besides, Shamir was fully aware that the Palestinians whom he summoned entered his office after having obtained the relevant permission from the PLO leadership. Moreover, Shamir also knew that each of these figures would send a detailed report to the PLO on his meeting with Shamir. When Shamir met with these figures, he actually met with the PLO in spite of the repeated statements which he makes to the effect that he neither recognizes the PLO nor its members. Furthermore, the Palestinian stand was crystal clear, as those who met Shamir displayed a knowledgeable insistence on the need to regain the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish an independent state. For Shamir to attempt to contain the intifadah by holding these meetings is a joke.

[Al-Sharqawi] Then, what is the objective behind the holding of these meetings, particularly as he [Shamir] said that these meetings were very successful and that he will continue to hold similar meetings after the hostage crisis is resolved?

[Abu-Sharif] Shamir displays too much stupidity as regards the ways and means to obstruct the Middle East peace process and prevent it from heading forward. He seeks to obstruct this process and believes that his tactics will enable him to impede the existing and available peace opportunities in the region. For example, Shamir thought that the endorsement of constraints at a Likud Central Committee meeting would stalemate the process. However, the government soon discovered that the Likud resolutions were politically a scandal that could be adhered to. This prompted the Israeli Government to revoke these resolutions not because it was not convinced of them, but because it wanted to create a diplomatic opportunity or a new diplomatic horizon that would spare Israel the embarrassment that if felt after the issuance of the Likud resolutions. They [Israelis] launched the elections idea to gain time, despite the fact that Shamir does not subscribe to the idea of holding the democratic and free elections envisaged by us and the West. We accepted elections provided that these elections be free, democratic, and political. And now, Shamir has realized that he is incapable of explaining his concept of elections. He wants to hold the elections just to produce a negotiating delegation; and this cannot be accepted by anyone with common sense and logic. What is the meaning of holding elections just to choose a negotiating delegation? The elections must produce representatives of the people to be sent to a legislative body. This legislative body must then, in light of the election results, name the figures who would represent it in the government which would in turn decide on the persons to conduct the negotiations. Shamir's meetings with the Palestinian figures were designed to enable him to tell the United States that he is meeting with Palestinians and that his problem does not lie in his rejection of the Palestinians inasmuch as it lies in his rejection of the PLO. This continued to be the case until he fell in the trap. When these figures met with Shamir, they told him "we are the PLO," thus throwing the ball into his court, particularly as the entire world realizes that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that his determination to reject the PLO is no more than an obstruction seeking to hamper the efforts that aim to bring about a just peace. Nowadays, we say that the ball is currently in the U.S. court, as this spoiled child [Israel] has become too naughty and that the United States must twist its arm or give it "a beating" to force it to withdraw from the territories which it is occupying.

[Al-Sharqawi] As we are talking about elections, we can ask the following question: Has the PLO received a reply to president 'Arafat's recent proposal made before the Egyptian press? The proposal includes four points: A partial withdrawal from the occupied territories, then a complete withdrawal within 26 months, then elections, and finally independence.

[Abu-Sharif] We expect the United States to deal fairly with all the ideas being put forth in the region and also to deal fairly with all sides. President 'Arafat has launched an initiative and has also defined the details of many issues. Regrettably, the United States still insists on dealing with the PLO as if there is no plan other than the Shamir plan. For us, Shamir's plan is not a peace plan. Even if it were a peace plan, it is not proposed to us as Palestinians but to Jordan and the residents of "Judaea" and "Samaria." We believe that the situation in the Middle East will move if the U.S. Administration starts dealing with the current projects in the region with a sense of equality.

[Al-Sharqawi] In this context, people blame the PLO for making all kinds of concessions, while Israel has not made any concessions. What can we say if we make a comparison between the PLO's gains and losses through its peace plan?

[Abu-Sharif] During the PNC's session on 15 November, the PLO approved a policy based on the establishment of two states on the ground. We have previously proposed

the establishment of one state, a democratic state, where Jews and Palestinians coexist equally and without any discrimination, in accordance with our call for the establishment of a democratic state in Palestine. But the Jews rejected that, because they want a purely Jewish state. After 40 years, we still say that if the Jews insist on a state of their own that actually exists and is called Israel, we cannot force them to accept a democratic state in which people coexist. Therefore, we have decided to establish our state, which was approved under UN Resolution 181. But what will happen after 50 or 100 years? Will the two states unite in one democratic state? This issue is left to future generations, although it is has become clear to us that there will be two states. What is important now is the establishment of our state to meet our people's aspirations. This is the proposal we have put forth. Of course there are details. Accepting the UN resolution is in harmony with this concept, because it is no longer possible for us to adhere to the idea of the democratic state. This political tactic may generate positive or negative remarks about the state of affairs, the political moves, and the diplomatic bahavior. This is natural. He who does not work does not make mistakes and he who works will inevitably make mistakes. Comments will be made about these matters. But the PLO adheres to the essential idea that as long as the other side rejects the establishment of a democratic state, we want to establish our state.

[Al-Sharqawi] Answering a question before the Egyptian press on the future economic relations with Israel if a Palestinian state is established, President Yasir 'Arafat said that the Palestine partition plan approved by the United Nations stipulates one economy. What did 'Arafat mean by that? And does that mean there is a trend toward an economic unity with Israel?

[Abu-Sharif] Everything is negotiable if the Palestinian right to establish a state is recognized. For example, we know that the Palestinians want a passage between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Will Israel give us this passage through Negev in exchange for nothing? So the border issue is negotiable. Moreover, there are 2,000 [number as published] Palestinian workers in Israel. No sane man can imagine that Israel would easily relinquish them. And is there any sane man who believes the issue of water is nonnegotiable? Many issues need negotiations. All this can take place only if the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their state is recognized.

[Al-Sharqawi] What is your opinion on Shamir's stand concerning the Israeli Labor Party decisions and his declaration that the Labor Party's decisions, as well as the Fatah decisions, have no chance of success? What is your stand on the Labor Party's decisions concerning their acceptance of [Resolutions] 242 and 338?

[Abu-Sharif] By saying such things, Shamir is rejecting the idea of peace. The truth is that Shamir's, the Likud's, and the Israeli Government's stand—including the Labor Party—is to reject the idea of trading land for peace. In other words, they refuse to hand back one inch of territory to the Arabs in return for a peace agreement. Despite all this, we are still determined to continue all efforts to establish a permanent peace based on the equation of land before peace. I was not surprised by Shamir's stand. However, the political aim now is to squeeze Shamir in a tight corner and find the appropriate change through support from pressure, determination, and the international will, so that Israel will withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

[Al-Sharqawi] What do you think of Shamir's call to meet President Husni Mubarak?

[Abu-Sharif] If any such meeting does not have an anticipated outcome reflecting positively on the peace process, it is worthless.

[Al-Sharqawi] Can we understand from what you have said that such a meeting is useless?

[Abu-Sharif] I said clearly that if there is no anticipated practical outcome such a meeting is not justifiable.

[Al-Sharqawi] Let us move on to the Lebanese problem. What is your opinion on Abu-Musa's [Sa'id Musa Muragha] participation in the Suq al-Gharb battles?

[Abu-Sharif] Unfortunately, the national parties are being drawn into a battle to no avail and with no goal other than serving the Israeli partitionist and sectarian schemes. Involving the likes of Abu-Musa in such battles comes as no surprise to me. Whoever easily accepts disgrace upon himself is easy to degrade.

[Al-Sharqawi] What is your opinion on the latest evacuation campaigns of the Palestinians in the camps in Lebanon? There are some who affirm that the camp battles might restart. Mustafa Sa'd recently called for preparing the shelters.

[Abu-Sharif] Unfortunately, Walid Junblatt is abusing the heritage left by his father, the great struggler. Walid Junblatt is personally responsible for the evacuation which took place in al-Jiyah this time. We hope consciences will be awakened.

[Al-Sharqawi] What is your opinion of Walid Junblatt's stands in general?

[Abu-Sharif] This question should be asked of Walid Junblatt himself first. I believe that most of the national leaderships in Lebanon cannot take their decisions alone, even if some personalities do still have a conscience, like President al-Huss. We respect him. We wish he had the opportunities enabling him to really express what goes on in his mind. Mufti al-Khalid recognized these traits in Salim al-Huss. One should really express what one believes in in life. Sometimes, expressing the just stand is a historic necessity, regardless of what it costs, which sometimes could cost as much as a human being's life.

[Al-Sharqawi] Do you believe that General Michel 'Awn is right in calling for the liberation he started in the current stage? Do you not believe that there could have been a way to avoid all the death and destruction that has taken place?

[Abu-Sharif] Michel 'Awn opened the Lebanese file despite everyone else's will—internationally, regionally, and in the Arab world. He has pushed everyone to discuss this subject. I believe that by opening the Lebanese file, he has rendered Lebanon and the Lebanese a great and honest service which will go down in history.

[Al-Sharqawi] Do you not believe that the timing of the battles was harmful?

[Abu-Sharif] Michel 'Awn did not start any battles. Michel 'Awn called on the Lebanese to confront their tragic circumstances. I am confident that if the foreign forces withdraw, the Lebanese are capable of sitting down, negotiating, and reaching an understanding over all issues. Why not?

[Al-Sharqawi] They accuse the PLO of helping General 'Awn. What is your response?

[Abu-Sharif] We help Lebanon and the Lebanese. And the Lebanese have a right to our help. I believe that we are dutybound to help Lebanon and the Lebanese.

[Al-Sharqawi] Do you not believe that the Lebanese issue is linked with the Palestine question—that is, the Lebanese issue cannot be solved before solving the Palestine question?

[Abu-Sharif] The Palestine question is an Arab issue. But, if we want to say that in order to solve the Lebanese issue the Palestine question must also be on the threshold of a solution, the answer is no.

[Al-Sharqawi] In your opinion, if the Lebanese crisis explodes again, where will the explosion take place in terms of moves in the Middle East, whether on the Palestinian or international levels?

[Abu-Sharif] I told you at the beginning that one of the basic objectives of what is happening in Lebanon now, and what Israel is doing, is to divert world attention from the crimes and organized terrorism practiced by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory. We hope that things in Lebanon will cool down so that world opinion will concentrate on the essence of the problem in the Middle East—that is, the Israeli occupation.

[Al-Sharqawi] Do you believe that the tripartite committee can solve the Lebanese problem, or do you believe that the issue should be internationalized?

[Abu-Sharif] It is possible to embark on a solution to the Lebanese problem if the Arabs decide that the Arab deterrent forces are really Arab forces. However, I rule this out and believe that the international factor has become necessary in Lebanon.

[Al-Sharqawi] It has been reported that president Yasir 'Arafat has received an invitation to visit Japan and that he will make the visit when a new government settles down.

[Abu-Sharif] This is correct. And, I personally conveyed the invitation to him.

[Al-Sharqawi] Will President Yasir 'Arafat attend the next UN session?

[Abu-Sharif] We hope so.

[Al-Sharqawi] Many Palestinian personalities said that the international conference will convene before the end of this year. And president Abu-'Ammar himself said it is very close. This year is approaching its end and nothing on the horizon signals its convening.

[Abu-Sharif] Practical steps will be taken before the end of this year to prepare for the international conference. The international conference will not convene this or next year. The international conference will convene in the long run; it will not convene before all the files have been completed.

[Al-Sharqawi] Therefore, where does the Palestine question stand now? Is it at the beginning or in the middle of the road? What point has it reached?

[Abu-Sharif] Let us say that the establishment of the independent Palestinian state through finding a political solution to the Middle East crisis is in the final phase.

[Al-Sharqawi] Does this mean that you are optimistic, although everything points to the opposite?

[Abu-Sharif] Despite everything that appears on the surface, the issue has come to the final phase. And the final phase is always the most difficult.

[Al-Sharqawi] What are the facts you possess affirming that the issue has come to the final phase?

[Abu-Sharif] Two important factors make me say this. The first is that the resistance against the occupation is continuous and deep-rooted; it will not stop. And this is an existing and vital issue. The second factor is the existence of an international desire and the joint will of the two superpowers to find solutions to the regional problems in the world. The Middle East issue is the only burning regional issue that has not been solved yet. Therefore, all efforts will be focused on this problem. The two superpowers' foreign ministers—James Baker and Eduard Shevardnadze—will discuss the agenda of the first summit meeting between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev in September. And the Middle East issue will be at the top of the two superpowers' agenda of regional issues.

Algeria

Communique Issued on New Election Legislation

LD2408202689 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] On the municipal and wilaya [state] elections the Presidency has issued today the following communique:

The terms of office of the current municipal and wilaya popular councils end legally on 13 December 1989. In accordance with the provisions of the law, new municipal and wilaya elections are then supposed to take place in the coming December. The political reforms which began in 1988, however, have created considerable multifaceted change in the rules of the exercising of political activity and its conditions, and also in the significance of the elections themselves. This requires implicity the preparation of new legislation and schedules which do not agree with previous election schedules.

The changes introduced by the Constitution on the role of local council dictate the amendment of several regulations of the municipal law and the wilaya law, as it requires a new redistribution of the powers between the governor, who represents the government, and the local councils and administrations. The legislative amendments pertaining to this remain until this day in the form of drafts at the level of the government. Also the law concerning information has not yet taken its final shape. At another level, some have begun to use more and more the objective requirements pertaining to the legal almanac as a political pretext for the postponement of the elections. However, the care to take into consideration every positive initiative to consolidate the climate of democratic competition, made the president decide to take all suitable legal measures in order to fix new dates for the coming municipal and wilaya elections. On this occasion the president confirms anew his commitment to continue the political reforms until their end and his determination to take all the initiatives permitted by the Constitution in order to provide the country, in the shortest possible time, with institutions characterized by stability and real representation which it requires at the current decisive stage of its political development.

Japanese To Extend Gasoline Production Loan

OW2108140689 Tokyo KYODO in English 1027 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 21 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan will extend a 10-year, 13,649 million-yen bank loan with 5.5 percent interest to the Foreign Trade Bank of Algeria, Banque Exterieure d'Algerie, bank officials said Monday [21 August].

The money will be used to buy Japanese machinery to expand gasoline production in the North African nation, the officials said.

Egypt

Iran Reportedly Linked to 'Sabotage' Plans

PM2508102389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Aug 89 pp 1,2

['Adil 'Abd-al-'Alim report: "Secrets of the Most Dangerous Organization Working for Iran"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—With the continuation of the investigations being conducted by the higher prosecution office of state security in Egypt with respect to the membership of the most dangerous organization which was working for Iran's interests in the region, new facts and details have begun to emerge regarding the operations to recruit organization members, 41 of whom have been detained. These are headed by the person in charge of making contacts with the Iranian regime—namely, Dr Sayyid Fahmi al-Shinnawi, who participated in a working team of doctors assigned to treat Khomeyni before his death. [passage omitted]

The interrogation also revealed that the multinational organization did not make moves in Egypt alone but moved into Syria, Cyprus, India, and Iraq. In addition, most members admitted that they were members of the organization which assassinated former Egyptian Awqaf Minister Shaykh al-Dhahabi and led the sectarian incidents of al-Zawiyah al-Hamra'.

Dr Sayyid Fahmi al-Shinnawi—who is 67 and considered one of the most famous and competent Egyptian urologists and who is well-known at the Arab and international levels—confessed and revealed the details of his contacts with and visits to Iran where he met with Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, who was nominated to succeed Khomeyni; Mir Hoseyn Musavi, former prime minister, and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, present foreign minister. [passage omitted]

He said that he did not expect the reception he was accorded in Iran. The visit lasted 4 days during which he met with Montazeri, Musavi, and Velayati. He added that in Tehran he had looked at some new X-rays and was informed that they were of an important figure with special status. After examining them he confirmed that the disease was a prostate cancer for which no rapid treatment could be provided because it was an advanced case.

The doctor added that the patient's name was concealed from him in Iran so that it would not be known to the medical center in London, which could have deduced from the medical reports that Khomeyni was dying. He pointed out that during the visit no one spoke with him about any ideologies or anything else, indicating that the visit was purely medical.

The doctor concluded his statements to the prosecutor's office by saying that he had visited Tehran again in 1989 as part of a large delegation headed by Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr

and including 'Abd-al-Halim al-Jundi, 'Abd-al-Jalil 'Isa, and Fahmi Huwaydi. The objective was to attend an Islamic conference there.

The interrogation also revealed that there was financial support for the organization. It was allocated to the shura council, the highest authority in the organization, to cover the costs of educational courses and military training. It was supervised by Abu-Iman—who handed part of it—and 'Imad Yusuf Ahmad Qandil, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad al-Kashif, and Salim Mustafa al-Sabbagh. This is in addition to monthly contributions from the organization's shura council members to cover their internal movements in Egypt and abroad. [passage omitted]

The interrogation also disclosed that the Iranian Abu-Rashid had received additional sums as a reward for him and to encourage some elements to carry out the tasks assigned to them. Those tasks included carrying out sabotage acts in the coming period against U.S., Israeli, Iraqi, and Kuwaiti interests as well as against some other Arab states. [passage omitted]

Members of Communist Underground Group Arrested

NC2408193389 Cairo MENA in English 1629 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug 24 (MENA)—The Higher Prosecution Office of state security began today investigations with members of an illegitimate underground communist organization whom security organs had arrested earlier today. The organization calls itself the Egyptian Communist Labour Party and includes 52 defendents, three of whom are journalists, three lawyers and a number of labourers.

Security organs found a large number of books and circulars calling for the promotion of the organization's ideas which are the domination of a social stratum over another and illegally overturning social and political state systems. Security organs learned that the organization's members tried to capitalize on the recent iron and steel plant incidents to carry out their targeted plan.

NPUG Claims 28 Opposition Members Arrested

JN2408190089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The Egyptian authorities arrested 28 persons today, mostly National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] members, including trade unionists.

According to a statement by the NPUG, which is composed of Egyptian Nasirite and Marxist opposition elements, these arrests—together with the arrest of another 10 NPUG members—are considered the government's reply to the campaign of solidarity in support of workers at the iron and steel plant in al-Tabbin in the industrial area of Hulwan, south of Cairo.

Earlier this month, police stormed the plant to evict striking workers protesting the expulsion of two of their representatives from the board of directors for refusing to vote for a reduction in production incentives. At that time some 500 workers were arrested pending an investigation. It was also decided to jail about 80 strikers, including 15 who were taken to hospital with wounds caused by police intervention. A complaint was also lodged against the torture of two of the workers' representatives on the board of directors. The NPUG statement condemned what it termed repressive methods used by the government under the emergency law in dealing with the social crises. It called for the release of all prisoners who were jailed for expressing their opinions, and said today's arrests included a journalist and a lawyer who are members of the general secretariat of the Egyptian Human Rights Committee. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Reportedly Invited to Libyan Celebration

NC2408152489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Egyptian diplomatic sources in Tunis have said that Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has invited Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to attend the festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the 1 September revolution.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets With Palestinian Delegation

NC2408142489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received a Palestinian delegation including 'Abdallah Hurani, Jamal al-Surani, and Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, members of the PLO Executive Committee; Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of the Fatah Movement. Attending the meeting from the Egyptian side were Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Ambassadors 'Amr Musa and Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

During the meeting, which was held within the framework of the constant consultation and coordination between Egypt and the PLO, the Egyptian and Palestinian officials discussed the recent developments in the Palestinian area. The Palestinian delegation currently visiting Cairo for a few days has also visited Jordan, where it held talks focusing on the current peace efforts regarding the Palestinian issue within the framework of Palestinian-Jordanian consultation and coordination.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Arrives in Alexandria

NC2408162989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Alexandria, 24 Aug (MENA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here this evening. He was received at al-Nuzhah Airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Comments on Meeting With Mubarak

NC2408184289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Alexandria, 24 Aug (MENA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met President Muhammad Husni Mubarak tonight. Following the meeting, 'Aziz told journalists that he conveyed to President Mubarak an oral message from his brother President Saddam Husayn, adding that the message falls within the bilateral, Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], and Arab framework. Egypt and Iraq, he said, regularly consult each other on issues which both countries consider as being of major significance.

'Aziz said that the situation in Lebanon is one of utmost concern to the leaders of both Egypt and Iraq. Lebanon, he noted, is also a source of great concern to all ACC members as well as to all Arabs. The events in Lebanon have grave implications for both Arab national security and inter-Arab relations, he said.

'Aziz said that the current phase is one of consultation and exchanging opinions, particularly after the tripartite committee issued its report and distributed it among Arab countries. President Saddam Husayn, 'Aziz said, wanted to inform his brother President Mubarak of his opinions and also wished to learn President Mubarak's evaluation of the situation in Lebanon. We are continuously exchanging opinions on all the issues of interest to the Arab people, 'Aziz said. He noted that the opinions of the leaders of both countries are close and even identical, for they are derived from true pan-Arab motives and objectives.

Concerning the exchanges between Iraq and Iran, 'Aziz said that there has been no serious progress. He noted that a meeting at the level of experts is under way in Geneva between an Iraqi envoy, an Iranian envoy, and a personal representative of the UN secretary general, but added that the results of that meeting are not yet available.

'Aziz said that the UN secretary general is trying to prepare a meeting between the two countries in Belgrade, noting that, unfortunately, no progress has been made yet in the talks. Iran, he said, has not yet adopted any clear stand on the issue of peace, and in the absense of a decisive political decision any substantial progress would be difficult. 'Aziz added: We are still waiting for the Iranian leadership to adopt a clear decision leading to the establishment of a comprehensive and lasting peace with Iraq and with other countries in the region.

Al-Azhar Grand Imam Rules on Bank Interest

JN2008193089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Aug 89 p 15

[Text] Al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh 'Ali Jad al-Haq has given his final decisive word in the issue of bank interest rates, which has recently been a topic of intense argumentation. He said:

The Islamic 'ulema congress, meeting as a conference of al-Azhar's Islamic Research Council, was held in Muharram 1385 Hegira, corresponding to May 1985. According to al-Azhar's law and executive regulations issued by a presidential decree, the council's task, among others, is to give opinions on emerging religious, economic, or social problems. Many lawyers, economists, and social experts from various countries took part in the congress. Following is the text of one of its resolutions:

1.Interest on all types of loans is usury prohibited by religion, no matter whether called consumption or production loans. All Koranic and Sunna texts are decisive in considering both types prohibited.

2. Little usury and much usury alike are prohibited by religion. This is clear in the correct understanding of the following Koranic verse: "You who believe, devour not usury, doubled and multiplied."

3. Giving interest-making loans is prohibited by religion; it is not justified by need or necessity. Taking interest-making loans is also prohibited by religion, but it is permissible in case of need only, and each Muslim is left to his religious discretion to determine how necessary obtaining a loan with interest is.

4. Bank activities of current accounts, check cashing, letters of credit, and domestic bills of exchange, which constitute the bases of local dealings between banks and traders, are all permissible banking activities. Activities of a similar nature cannot be considered usury.

5. Opening fixed term accounts, opening letters of credit with interest, and making all forms of loans in return for interest are all usurious actions.

6. Discussion of banking activities involving foreign bills was postponed.

I asked the grand imam about people's confusion concerning their deposits in banks and whether they are prohibited or permitted by religion.

He answered: The first item of this resolution, stating that interest on all types of forms is a prohibited usury, applies to these deposits. Deposits with fixed interests are loans by the definition of the law.

I asked the grand imam: How, then, can state projects be financed by religiously lawful money?

He answered: Banks can contribute to the projects using the money of depositors instead of giving loans with interest considered usury and giving the depositors some of this interest.

I said to the grand imam: If this applies to usurious production projects, what about the services projects, which are partly financed by banks?

He replied: During the discussion of the issue of investment certificates, we learned from experts that the money of these certificates is directed toward services and that the

government pays the profits of these certificates. The government decisions, which enforce the law, stated that the state shall pay an interest to the owners of these certificates. The Islamic Research Council postponed giving religious judgment on these certificates until the government decisions be amended so that the owners of these certificates be given saving rewards from the state instead of interest. This amendment is necessary for the introduction of these certificates. Muslims cannot decree permissible things prohibited or prohibited things permissible. Specialists in these certificates did not reply to this proposal, meant for rectifying the contract.

Mauritania

Foreign Minister Views Dispute With Senegal

PM2408140389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Aug 89 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba by Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Darwish] What is the latest on the dispute between Mauritania and Senegal?

[Ould Baba] Relative calm prevails thanks to the mediation of Mali's President Moussa Traore, but the situation is still tense and we must work for a peaceful settlement of the dispute as soon as possible.

[Al-Darwish] But the Malian mediation is said to have reached a dead end.

[Ould Baba] Yes, it has reached a dead end because Senegal rejected that mediation. The Malian mediation has ended because the OAU chairmanship has now gone to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

President Moussa Traore made specific proposals but Senegal rejected them and raised new issues not acceptable to Mauritania or Mali.

[Al-Darwish] What were these issues?

[Ould Baba] The border problem and formation of an international committee to examine the causes of the conflict.

[Al-Darwish] What are Mauritania's demands now?

[Ould Baba] Security for the 300,000 Mauritanians who are still in Senegal. They should be allowed to return to their homeland and they should be compensated. The funds seized from Mauritanians by the Senegalese authorities at the airport amount to $200 million, not to mention what was plundered from their shops and their homes. We also demand the return of the Mauritanian cattle still in Senegal, and Mauritania is prepared to do likewise.

[Al-Darwish] Did the Mauritanian authorities seize any funds from the expelled Senegalese people?

[Ould Baba] Not at all. By compensation I mean compensation for any property proved to have been in their possession and left behind. Most, if not all, the Mauritanians who lived in Senegal were merchants and had property, whereas the Senegalese were workers in the services and mineral fields. Everyone knows that they had no property and no funds to speak of.

Mauritania has one more demand: That Senegal stop interfering in Mauritania's internal affairs.

[Al-Darwish] The French press has accused Mauritania of expelling many black Mauritanian citizens, claiming they are Senegalese.

[Ould Baba] That is a total fabrication and is completely unfounded. All those expelled were Senegalese.

[Al-Darwish] What about the border problem?

[Ould Baba] That problem was raised by Senegal to conceal the main problem. This is the first time this matter has been raised since the two countries attained independence, but Senegal has found nobody to support it on that issue. The African states, as stated by the OAU, insist on the borders inherited from imperialism. States interested in the region, such as France, also insist on that. However, if the Senegalese are determined to open the borders file then we would be willing to do so. There are many historical documents proving Mauritania's ownership of the southern bank of the Senegal river.

[Al-Darwish] You mean Senegalese territory?

[Ould Baba] Yes, part of Senegalese territory. These documents exist and could be examined, as could books written by local and French historians.

[Al-Darwish] Western press reports noticeably speak of Senegalese escalation and sharper tone. Do you expect this to reach the point of military escalation?

[Ould Baba] That is possible. There is escalation on the part of Senegal. Personally, I do not believe that Senegal has anything to gain from military confrontation.

[Al-Darwish] What about the position of the Arab states?

[Ould Baba] The Arab states have shown understanding of the Mauritanian position but, because the conflict is between two Islamic states, many states did not want the matter to develop into an Afro-Arab problem. We emphasize that we have no desire to create a problem between the Arabs and the Africans, and the truth of the matter is that there is no such problem. The proof is that most African states have openly expressed sympathy with and understanding of the Mauritanian position. At the latest African summit the participants adopted most of the Mauritanian proposals and because of that, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf canceled a speech he had intended to make. We believe there is a role for the Arab states to play, not in the interest of Mauritania but in the interest of Afro-Arab peace and security in the region. Such peace cannot be achieved unless pressure is brought

to bear on Senegal to stop the escalation and respond to the proposals submitted by the president of Mali.

[Al-Darwish] What do you expect of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's mediation?

[Ould Baba] The mediation is still in the early stage of exploration and information-gathering and has not yet reached the point of making proposals. We, of course, welcome it and wish it success because, as an Arab and African state, Egypt may understand the issue better. At any rate we are willing to respond to any constructive proposals, just as we did with President Traore.

[Al-Darwish] Some people speak of a conspiracy against Mauritania's Arab identity. What is your opinion?

[Ould Baba] Everything in Mauritania is Arab and we are ready to defend that with everything we have. As far as Mauritania is concerned, that was never in question, although some people with an imperialist background imagined that Mauritania could be isolated from the great Arab body, but that has failed and it has not affected and will never affect Mauritania's Arab identity, which, of course, is not in conflict with our African identity.

Morocco

King Receives 'Arafat Message on Anniversary

LD2408210189 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 24 (MAP)—On the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the arson of the al-Aqsa mosque, president of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat addressed King Hassan II a message reiterating the Palestinian people's determination to carry on its intifidah [uprising] and its legitimate struggle to put an end to Israeli occupation and to create an independent state.

The message pointed out that this anniversary provides opportunity to draw the international community's attention to Israeli practices in the occupied territories and which include "repression, terror, expulsions, arrests of thousands of people, destruction of lodgings and historical monuments, firing at civilian demonstrators, and closing down of schools..."

This anniversary is taking place while the Israeli occupying forces are still deliberately profanting the holy sites of Islam and distorting Arab heritage while blatantly violating civilizational, human and religious values, the message stated.

The Palestinian president added that despite the condemnation of these hideous crimes by the United Nations and other international organizations, occupying forces carry on their plans meant to distort the Palestinian national identity by destroying ancient sites, prohibiting the rehabilitation of archeological monuments of priceless value, building settlements in the al-Quds nearby, forebidding the free exercise of religious rites by imposing blockade on holy shrines, arresting worshippers and expelling Muslim and Christian religious leaders.

Sudan

Official on Cease-Fire Extension, Addis Talks

EA2408120789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the Revolution Command Council and political supervisor of Equatoria Region, has announced that the revolution will extend the cease-fire for another month when the current period ends.

He said that the revolution had taken the initiative and shown its good intentions in an effort to stop the bloodshed and reach a final and comprehensive solution to the southern problem. He said the negotiations with the leaders of the movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement], which took place in Addis Ababa recently, should be regarded as a positive step toward bringing various viewpoints closer together and achieving a solution that is acceptable to all parties.

He added that efforts to achieve peace were being reinforced at the present time. He pointed out that the cessation of clashes during the cease-fire period was evidence that deep down the movement really wanted peace. He said that in view of its influence in the area and the permanent presence of the movement's leaders in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia could play an important role in mediating between the government and the movement's leaders.

Delegation Leader Cited

PM2408092789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Aug 89 pp 1-2

[Kamal Hamid report: "Head of Sudanese Government Delegation Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: South Dialogue Resumes in 2 Months and Khartoum Intends To Extend Cease-Fire"]

[Excerpts] Addis Ababa, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Despite what has been said about the failure of the first round of negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], which is waging the war in the south, a statement issued by the two sides in Addis Ababa yesterday affirmed that they agreed to continue the dialogue some time later. [passage omitted]

Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and head of the Sudanese Government delegation to the negotiations, stated to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meeting clearly expressed a sincere desire to achieve peace.

On points of disagreement and agreement between the two sides, Col Khalifah said that the subject of applying

the Islamic shari'a was the notable point of disagreement. This is in addition to the abrogation of the joint defense agreement with Egypt and the military protocol with Libya. But there was almost agreement on the cease-fire issue, on the lifting of the state of emergency, and on which step should come first.

Col Khalifah added that there was full agreement between the two sides with regard to leaving a channel of direct contacts open between the government and the SPLM via the Sudanese Embassy, not via any foreign quarters.

He also said: We also agreed to continue the dialogue in 2 months from now in order to crystallize positions and determine the points of agreement and disagreement. Furthermore, we agreed to continue to deliver relief supplies to those affected in the south and to protect current UN relief convoys.

Answering a question on whether an agreement on a cease-fire was reached, Col Khalifah told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: That issue requires full agreement, and until that happens we must exploit the atmosphere of the cease-fire now in effect and always work to extend it. For our part, we will extend the cease-fire defined by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC, which will terminate 4 September. We felt that the movement will issue a decision enshrining the declared period.

On the media campaigns and the attack launched by John Garang on the military leadership in Sudan, Col Khalifah said: "We in the RCC have agreed to transcend the media attack method for the sake of peace and will not react emotionally for the sake of Sudan's interests. And I did not sense any hostility from the movement delegation during the talks, contrary to what has been portrayed by foreign media services. In fact Lam Akol, head of their delegation, announced his appreciation and respect for our delegation, indicating that he sensed its members' sincerity about achieving peace. [passage omitted]

Al-Tahir Interviewed on Domestic, Arab Affairs

JN2508082789 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
23 Aug 89 pp 22-23

[Interview with Brigadier General al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir, member of the Revolution Command Council, by Ahmad Hanaqah in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Hanaqah] What about the south problem and the steps that have been made in this regard?

[Al-Tahir] Regarding the south, we are continuing to abide by the cease-fire in accordance with the time declared by the government as a gesture of good intentions to pave the way for negotiations. We have also secured the progress of the "Lifeline" relief operation for the people affected by the war. All this is within the framework of the positive steps. A delegation led by brother Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has left for Addis Ababa to hold direct negotiations with the rebel movement. For the first time, we entered direct negotiations without preconditions, contrary to what usually took place during the past era regarding the preparatory steps of canceling military agreements with the fraternal states... and so on. This is weakness, humiliation, interference in the state's affairs, and encroachment upon its sovereignty. We do not accept this humiliation which was accepted by the weak and fragile parties when they were in power. As I told you, we have not yet reached the stage of achievements, but we are still at the stage of reforms. When we achieve something positive, the people then will become sure of our good intentions. We will make great and tangible achievements, God willing.

[Hanaqah] You were in Cairo when the revolution broke out. It was said that you were in your father's company. However, some people linked your presence there to the Egyptian leadership's support for the new government. It was also said that you were there to coordinate with the Egyptian leadership. What do you have to say?

[Al-Tahir] (expressing surprise) From where have they come up with this? This is untrue and baseless.

[Hanaqah] What are the results of your visits to Chad and Libya?

[Al-Tahir] The objective of these visits that we paid with the brothers in the Revolution Command Council [RCC] is to improve relations with the neighboring, fraternal, and friendly states. Within this framework, we went to Chad and explained to the brothers there the political changes in Sudan, the dimensions of this change, the reasons that have prompted this, and the RCC's declared objectives. We have also reviewed Sudan's relations with Chad before the revolution, especially as we believe that the relations between the two states are close and fateful. The brothers there showed understanding of explanations we gave regarding our new policies and realized the major approaches of our relations with them. We have agreed to turn over a new leaf of good and stable relations. And now, I can stress to you that we have begun to entrench the bases of these fraternal relations in a manner that would serve the interests of our countries and peoples.

Regarding the internal conflict in Chad, we have agreed to proceed on the road of a peaceful solution to this conflict in a manner that would serve friendly Chad's stability. Naturally, it is a purely internal conflict that should be settled through peaceful means. We believe in settling internal conflicts through peaceful means, through negotiations, just as we are doing regarding southern Sudan. We have also agreed to always discuss every issue of concern to both countries.

[Hanaqah] What about the visit to Libya?

[Al-Tahir] The visit to Libya is within the same framework of improving relations with neighbors and brothers. Libya is a neighboring and fraternal state and

we had to show interest in it to convey the new government's views to it. So, the visit was to further promote bilateral relations. We explained to the brothers in the Jamahiriyah the Sudanese Armed Forces' seizure of power. Here I would like to say that what took place in Sudan came as a surprise to several states. Therefore, quick action should be taken to explain our views to all brothers and friends, and the visit to Libya is within this framework. God be praised, we have received full understanding and acceptance of our foreign policy. God willing, we expect these relations to prosper in the future to serve the interests of Sudan, Libya, and all the brothers.

[Hanaqah] What about the relationship with Egypt? Have you set an alternative model to Al-Mahdi's brotherhood charter and Numayri's integration charter?

[Al-Tahir] Actually, we view our relationship with Egypt as being always good despite the change in governments and leaders. This is a warm, strong relationship between brothers. It is an inseparable blood and cultural bond. But we must also be realistic and act in accordance with the spirit of the age and the dictate of international and regional circumstances by making best use of our relations for the sake of our common interest and the future and prosperity of the peoples of Egypt and Sudan.

What I can affirm here is that we will try to benefit from past experience in our relations with Egypt, both with regard to the brotherhood charter and the integration charter. We will take the positive points and try to improve on them. This is the nature of things. It is wrong to start from point zero. We must be guided by past experiences. We must study these experiences and find the weak points so there will be no setbacks. We have no time to waste on setbacks. The homeland has already paid a heavy price for the failure of previous relations and charters. Actually, we do not care about names and modalities; we are only interested in a higher level of brotherhood and integration. We aspire for unity. We can change all past concepts.

[Hanaqah] So, do you believe that the unity of the Nile valley is possible under your administration?

[Al-Tahir] Why not, if the people themselves take the initiative? There is no objection whatsoever, and it would definitely be a reality. I must emphasize, however, the decision must come from the people, not the governments. The people's decision is the key word.

[Hanaqah] Can you also repeat history; that is, the Tripoli charter on unity among Egypt, Libya, and Sudan?

[Al-Tahir] The Tripoli charter was under Numayri. As I said, we will review our past experiences with all of our brothers in order to eliminate the negative points and reinforce and improve upon the positive ones. I would like to affirm here that to us, unity is a fateful and strategic objective. However, we as a government do not want to and cannot make the decision. We want the people to decide for themselves. This is a popular decision. [passage omitted]

[Hanaqah] Can Britain and the World Council of Churches play a role in settling the war problem in the south?

[Al-Tahir] Right now, we want a Sudanese solution, since this is essentially a Sudanese issue between Sudanese. Therefore, we do not want to give the green light to any party to interfere in our affairs. There are of course international efforts to help us reach a solution, but these are restricted to paving the way for negotiations. We will not permit any foreign nation or organization to actually set the bases for a solution. As far as we are concerned, this is a purely internal issue. We are aware that the rebels are trying to internationalize it, but that will not become a workable basis. The [Garang] movement sees otherwise. The United States has expressed its readiness to mediate. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter visited us and also Ethiopia. There is also an Egyptian and an Ethiopian role due to those two countries' common borders with Sudan. The OAU under Egypt's chairmanship might also exert an effort. Libya, too, has shown interest in what is going on in the south. The main thing we want to emphasize here is that we are after a Sudanese solution at a Sudanese negotiating table. If it became necessary to consider other options, this would depend on the development of the situation. [passage omitted]

[Hanaqah] The rebel movement raises socialist slogans and calls for the liberation of Sudan. What is the real objective, and is it possible to achieve?

[Al-Tahir] The liberation of Sudan in the manner proposed by John Garang will not take place, because Sudan will not be an easy morsel for Garang and his backers. We, too, have our own well-known strategy and fateful alliances. With direct support we can reach the peace we want. Peace will not come except through a pressing military reality.

Garang and his movement believe in the socialist idea. They have been influenced by their presence in Ethiopia with its well-known international connections. However, this socialist call has both negative and positive points. One positive point is that it makes the antisocialist forces in the world adopt a neutral stand on the problem of the south, if not support us as a government. However, we have also noticed that the rebel movement includes people who are not socialists and who are even hostile to socialism. Dr Mansur Khalid is one of them. The trend these days is for young communists to join the rebel movement. I do not know why, but the movement's alliance with the Communist Party is well known. I believe these young men are probably after adventure and gallantry. Is it not strange for anyone to back an outlaw movement that fights the government?

[Hanaqah] Will the Sudan, which is surrounded by seven African nations, enter into military alliances with other countries to strengthen its position?

[Al-Tahir] Thank God, our position is strong. However, we will not reject support from our brothers, especially in the fields of armament, training, joint action, coordination, and the exchange of information.

Let me remind you that there exist natural and historical agreements and alliances which need no further explanation, such as the defense pact within the Arab League. There is also our joint defense agreement with Egypt, which was signed in 1976. This agreement is primarily in the interest of Sudan, and we adhere to it. We will never bow to rebel pressure to cancel this agreement. This broad alliance affords us wider movement within the Arab states, which have established a clear military cooperation to strengthen our position. Those who have tried war know and appreciate its circumstances and are therefore supporting us now.

[Hanaqah] You have announced that every able person must carry arms. What do you mean by that?

[Al-Tahir] It is a normal call under the war conditions we are experiencing. We want to establish a popular defense force inside the homeland. Our country spreads over a vast area of land which is difficult to defend with a limited number of regular forces, especially now that the rebels have expanded their operations and enlarged their army. So, the mobilization call is a normal thing now. The popular army is a major threat to the enemies. Therefore, we are resorting to this method to bolster our reserve. Moreover, the war option exists even now with all its woes, although it is going to be our last option, as I said. From this rostrum, I call on all our youths to join the Army and to perform their duty under the compulsory national service, whose program is being implemented by the Armed Forces in defense of the homeland and its soil, freedom, sovereignty, and independence. I believe that this is the natural feeling and normal desire of every zealous citizen. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

French Minister Notes 'Positive' Financial Ties

LD2108140889 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] In order to give impetus to economic cooperation between Tunisia and France, French Minister of Economy and Finance Pierre Beregovoy is on a working visit to Tunisia during which he has held discussions with Tunisian officials.

The French minister this afternoon [21 August] held a news conference, the details of which will be given by the news department's correspondent, Nasir Mulhi, from the venue of the conference:

[Mulhi] France's Minister of Economy and Finance Pierre Beregovoy has announced that his talks with Mohamed Ghannouchi, the [Tunisian] minister of planning and finance, have led to very positive results, as far as the Tunisian economy is concerned. The most prominent of these [results] is the signing of five agreements on financial cooperation. During a press conference held this morning in the capital, he added that these agreements aim at consolidating traditional economic relations between Tunisia and France, in accordance with outlines drawn up by the two presidents, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Francois Mitterrand, during their meeting at the beginning of last June in Tunis.

The agreements, which aim at entrenching the political will to deepen bilateral cooperations, concern the encouragement of French private investment in Tunisia, especially that the circumstances favorable to this are now abundant, and the encouragement of Tunisian investors who wish to invest their money in the French economy, in a way that is beneficial to both sides.

Pierre Beregovoy pointed out that the French Government, after noting last year's reverse in French investment in Tunisia will work towards taking the necessary and sufficient measures to channel French private capital to contribute towards the development of the Tunisian economy, and to benefit from the fiscal and legal concessions made by the Tunisian Government to encourage investment.

The French minister emphasized that in the future his country will not only give financial aid to Tunisia but, will also work towards the setting up of French and joint Tunisian-French companies in our country, a matter which should give great impetus to the Tunisian economy.

At another level, Beregovoy pointed out that France will protect its economic relations with the countries of the Maghreb, primarily Tunisia, within the unified Europe in 1992.

Kuwait

Embassy To Represent Mauritania in Senegal

LD2408133289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1519 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 3 (KUNA)—Kuwait Wednesday expressed deep regret over deterioration of relations between Senegal and Mauritania which led to severing ties between the two West African countries, announcing at the same time, that it will look after the Mauritanian interests in Dakar.

Acting Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, replying to reporters query in this regard, said "We are very regretful that such an issue develops to the level of severing relations between these two Muslim neighbor countries." He added that "we are maintaining close contacts with the brothers in both countries and H.H. [his highness] the amir has been continuing his personal efforts and concern on this matter in order to resolve the differences between the two Muslim countries."

Shaykh Sabah announced that Kuwait, at the request of Mauritania, will care for Nouakchott's interests in Senegal, expressing, in the meantime, Kuwait's readiness to do the same to look after the Senegalese interests in Nouakchott. He said that on basis of Kuwait's distinguished brotherly and Islamic relations with both countries, "We are ready to shoulder all the burdens and go on with efforts to remove differences between the two countries, which we hope they are only a passing summer cloud, specially we are at the doors of an Islamic summit to be held in Dakar early next year [as received]."

H.H. the amir, in his capacity as chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference, had delegated state minister for foreign affairs Sa'ud al-Usami, at the start of the ethnic conflict, to convey messages to leaders of the two countries.

AL-WATAN Urges New PLO Uprising Strategy

LD2508093989 Kuwait KUNA in English 0759 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 25 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti daily Friday [25 August] complained that Arab support to the ongoing Palestinian intifidah [uprising] is waning because of regional and international distractions and called upon the PLO to adopt a new strategy on the uprising. AL-WATAN newspaper, in an editorial comment on the approaching 22nd month since eruption of the heroic uprising, today noted that even Arab verbal support to the intifadah, in the form of mass rallies and rhetorical statements, is being dampened. "Aware of Arab indifference towards the intifadah and preoccupation with the tragic events in Lebanon," the paper said Israeli occupation forces are stepping up their ruthless campaign of repression against the Palestinians to force them into capitulation an measures of forcing Palestinian labourers to carry the magnetic card and return to the policy of deportations, suspended previously as result of international pressure, as example of such escalation, making use of the present state of disarray and Arab preoccupation with other world questions.

The PLO is called upon to confront the stepped up Israeli policy by adopting a new strategy that takes into account the relationship among forces taking active part in the uprising in light of an accurate assessment of conditions inside the occupied lands, AL-WATAN opined. It indicated that this should serve as a reminder, rather than a warning, of a set of facts lest they become obscured by the smoke of gun battles in Lebanon or the political transformation in Poland.

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations With SFRY Established

JN2408135489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1148 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Doha, 24 Aug (WAKH)—The Governments of the State of Qatar and the SFRY have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level as of today. This arises out of the two countries' desire to strengthen and develop relations of friendship and cooperation. In a joint communique issued by the Foreign Ministries in Doha and Belgrade today, the two sides expressed their confidence that the establishment of diplomatic relations between them and the exchange of ambassadors will contribute to developing international cooperation and reinforcing world peace and the sublime principles of the Nonaligned Movement. The two sides stated their readiness to build bilateral relations in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of peaceful coexistence, equality, mutual respect of the other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the noninterference in the other's internal affairs.

In addition, a news statement issued on this occasion says that Qatar and the SFRY have taken this important step toward developing equitable and useful relations—a step that will contribute to reinforcing cooperation between them and to promoting new trends in the international affairs. The statement adds that the two countries have expressed their confidence that developing relations of mutual respect and understanding between the two countries' people will reinforce all nations' efforts to safeguard peace and reach an early and fair settlement of regional conflicts and create a comprehensive and effective order for world security.

Amir Receives Message From Sultan Qabus

JN2308190689 Manama WAKH in English 1635 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Doha, Aug 23 (GNA)—H.H. [his highness] the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani

has received a verbal message from Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman. The message was conveyed by Muhammad Ibn-'Ali Ibn-Nasir al-'Alawi, secretary general of the Omani Legislative Department and envoy of Sultan Qabus during an audience with H.H. the amir here today. The audience was attended by the heir apparent and defence minister Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani. QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the message dealt with preparations and arrangements for the 10th Session of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Higher Council scheduled to be held in Muscat next December and ways to enhance the GCC cooperation movement through the implementation of the steps agreed upon in various fields of Gulf joint work.

Yemen Arab Republic

'Arafat Arrives, Holds Talks With President

JN2408155689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office this afternoon brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces. They discussed Palestinian developments against the background of mounting resistance against Zionist occupation. They also discussed Arab developments with an emphasis on Lebanon and Arab efforts to help the country out of its dilemma and end the tragedy of the brotherly Lebanese people. Brother 'Arafat briefed President Salih on the outcome of the Fatah General Congress, recently held in Tunis, and the resolutions it adopted to reinforce the Palestinian people's struggle to attain their national rights including self-determination, and statehood.

The president emphasized that the present crucial juncture in the Palestinian revolution calls for intensified joint Arab efforts to give political, material, and moral backing to the Palestinian people to help them achieve their inalienable national rights, including the establishment of an independent state led by their only legitimate representative, the PLO. He reiterated our country's continued support for the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people. The Palestinian leader arrived in Sanaa earlier in the day.

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives in Sanaa

JN2308130289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and the inspector general in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, arrived at Sanaa airport at noon today heading a delegation on a visit to our country. He was received at Sanaa International Airport by brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; brother Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member; a number of brother members of the Consultative Council and cabinet; several ranking officials and officers in the Armed and Security Forces; brother 'Ali al-Qutaybi, Saudi Arabian ambassador in Sanaa; and a number of embassy staff. [passage omitted]

Makes Statement, Departs

JN2308192589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and the inspector general in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, left Sanaa with his delegation this afternoon after a short visit to our country. He was accorded an official sendoff. Seeing him off at Sanaa international airport were 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member; a number of brother members of the Consultative Council and the cabinet; several ranking officials and officers in the Armed and Security Forces; brother 'Ali al-Qutaybi, Saudi Arabian ambassador in Sanaa; and embassy staff.

During a short rest in the guest hall at the airport, Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz made a statement to SABA' news agency. He said: My joy is great over the invitation my brother his excellency the president extended to me to visit my second home and participate with his excellency, Yemeni Government officials, and Armed Forces officials in inaugurating a new wing of the al-Daylami martyr base. He described the base as one of goodwill, love, and peace.

Commenting on laying the cornerstone for the military technical training college, he said it was a very important project which the custodian of the two holy mosques agreed to offer as a present to the Yemeni Armed Forces.

He described relations between the two countries as distinguished and consisting of ties of love, religion, neighborhood, and true Arab heritage.

Concluding his statement, he said these relations are developing firmly and without any hesitation. He hoped that God Almighty would spread His religion and propagate His word to honor the Muslims and Arabs. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Tariq 'Aziz's Message to UN Chief

JN2508070489 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0400 GMT 25 Aug 89

["Text" of message from Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar dated 22 Aug]

[Text] Your Excellency. I have looked into the statement issued by Your Excellency on 18 August 1989 on the 1st anniversary of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. Out of Iraq's continuous concern to deal with the issue of peace—including the issues mentioned in your statement—with sincerity and responsibility, I would like to make some remarks that I believe are necessary to emphasize.

You are fully aware that Iraq shares your regret that no earnest steps have been taken so far to implement Resolution 598 as a comprehensive peace plan, except the observance and consolidation of a cease-fire—that is, refraining from firing—until now. We shared with you this feeling and assessment during all the talks we held with you and the meetings that were held with the Iranian side under your sponsorship. Through our joint talks with you during the past year, talks characterized by frankness and mutual confidence, we reached the same conclusion that the main obstacle that prevented and is still preventing implementation of the resolution as a peace plan is the Iranian side's refusal to abide by the letter and spirit of the agreement of 8 August 1988, arrived at with the Iranian side under your supervision, on whose basis the cease-fire was observed on 20 August 1988 and the negotiations were launched.

During our last meeting in Rome on 6 July 1989, we came up with a joint conclusion that it is very necessary to insist the Iranian side relinquish this position and urge it to embark on genuine direct negotiations to implement Resolution 598. I recall that during this meeting, you informed me that you clearly mentioned this to the Iranian side during your meeting in Geneva before our meeting and that you told the Iranians: You should sit down with the Iraqi side in the presence or absence of the secretary general.

You recall that I affirmed to you in the presence of your representative, Ambassador Eliasson, and your assistants that Iraq seeks the secretary general's presence at and supervision over these direct negotiations. This is because the objective is to implement a peace plan endorsed by the United Nations through the Security Council and because we want the United Nations to sponsor the peace process and to guarantee the agreements reached by the two sides. In this way, the two countries and all regional states will enjoy a comprehensive, lasting peace sponsored and guaranteed by the United Nations to prevent any violations and the return of tension, instability, and war to the region.

I hoped that your statement on this historic occasion included these matters, which we together considered essential. Peace, as you know in light of your experience as UN secretary general, is not only a mechanism or steps, although the mechanism and steps are certainly required. What is more important and more valuable is the understanding reached by the concerned parties and their common understanding of the issues presented. This will facilitate the laying down of mechanisms and adoption of steps and will give them a genuine content to reinforce the issue of peace and provide the requirements of their earnest implementation. Mechanisms and steps that are not based on common understanding could be violated and misinterpreted.

In your capacity as UN secretary general you have many examples in which agreements were reached and mechanisms were laid down but violations and disputes did not stop. Since the beginning, we have warned against such a possibility. And on this basis, we reached the historic agreement of 8 August, which stipulates the importance of reaching common understanding of the provisions of Resolution 598 as well as the steps and timing of its implementation.

Since Your Excellency the Secretary General is the author of this agreement, you notice as we do that common understanding precedes the laying down of steps and timing of this agreement. And this is logical.

What drew my attention in your report is the fact that you said no negotiations can be held to reformulate Resolution 598 without referring to the side that understands the issue in this way. I felt that it was my duty to remind you of Iraq's position as it is in order to avoid any confusion.

I remember that since I handed you the Iraqi side's position on Resolution 598 in your office on the evening of 26 July 1987 and until the last meeting between us in Rome on 6 July 1989, neither the Iraqi side's talk nor the documents addressed to you by us include, implicitly or explicitly, such a meaning.

I must tell you that the Iranian side is the side that needs to be given a correct explanation of Resolution 598 as a peace plan. Since the issuing of Resolution 598 in 1987 the Iranian side is still confused about the meaning and significance of this historic resolution.

We fully understand the reasons behind this confusion. The Iranian side did not want this resolution in the first place. You recall that Iran's seat in the UN Security Council hall was vacant when the resolution was approved during the Security Council's session on 20 July 1987, while the Iraqi representative was present. You also recall the ploys employed by the Iranian side for 1 whole year to avoid following Resolution 598; the strange, abnormal explanations it gave to its clauses; and the more abnormal priorities it gave to the implementation of those clauses.

I only say the truth when I assert that Iran only accepted Resolution 598 the speedy way it did on 18 July 1988 after its military aggressive program was totally defeated.

I would also like to remind you of the fact that the agreement on a cease-fire was only possible after the historic statement made by President Saddam Husayn on 6 August 1988. I informed you of the content of that statement on the phone the day you were on vacation in the New York countryside. You immediately rushed back to New York and began the contacts that led to the 8 August 1988 agreement, the actual beginning of the cease-fire on that date, and the official beginning of the cease-fire on 20 August 1988 according to that agreement.

On this occasion, I can confidently assert that in the history of the Iraq-Iran conflict, no position to help the cause of peace can be registered for Iran, while you and your aides know of many Iraqi positions that sincerely endeavored to facilitate the peace mission, particularly the statement made by President Saddam Husayn on 6 August 1988 which was made at the climax of Iraq's victory over Iranian aggression and occupation.

This honorable record of loyality to the cause of peace cannot be erased. For the record and out of fairness, it must be remembered by those who sincerely endeavor for peace.

Once again, I say that I hoped your statement included the facts as they are.

Although I respect your diplomatic status and your interest, and that of your aides, in equating the positions, I believe that going too far in this interest will sometimes lead to overlooking the facts, and this may not lead to what you hope to achieve practically.

Is it really possible to justify equating the issue of troops' presence on the cease-fire lines with the issue of prisoners of war, as mentioned in your report? You know the facts of the first issue very well. You also know that what is now present on the cease-fire lines could never be described as occupation. It is a mere presence resulting from fixing the cease-fire lines when the cease-fire became valid on 20 August 1988. You also know well that so far, the Iranian side has not cooperated with you or us to determine the clauses and commitments of the cease-fire and did not enter with you or us into direct, serious talks to treat this and other issues.

You are also aware that the Iranian side is intentionally exaggerating this issue to evade its commitments to Resolution 598 and the issue of peace in general. The Iranian side also does not speak about these commitments in clear and responsible language, thus raising our deep doubts that its main concern is to maintain the state of no war, no peace to suit its stands.

I should record here for history only—not for any other reason—that after the issuance of Resolution 598 in July 1987 and when Iran rejected the cease-fire and occupied Iraqi cities and villages, large areas of Iraqi territory, and strategic areas in Iraq, announcing without any shame the liberation of these parts and the usage of them as a springboard for more invasion and expansion against Iraq and other neighborly states, you did not give this matter the priority you gave in your statement on 18 August 1989. This matter also was not then mentioned at the top of your written proposals. And the provisions of Resolution 598 were also viewed in accordance with mistaken and shortsighted assessments of the balance of power and weakness between the two parties. It would be useful if your assistants would review the old documents on this issue that were prepared in your office in the fall and winter of 1987 and the spring of 1988 before Iraq regained its occupied territory between April 1988 and July 1988 and made the cease-fire possible.

The commitment of the United Nations to its assessment of priorities in the issue of disputes is an important ethical matter which I do not believe you are not aware of. Does Your Excellency not share with me the feeling that mentioning the issue of prisoners of war on the basis of an inaccurate and unobjective balance will give the Iranian side an excuse to continue its stand linking their fate with the political process—a matter you denounced in your statement? You are aware that the issue of prisoners of war is governed by international laws and agreements and has precedents. Were it not the desire of the Iranian side to exploit this issue for political blackmail, it would have been resolved immediately after the cease-fire. I present this question so that it might be useful when studying the situation.

Your Excellency the Secretary General, I would like once again to restate Iraq's concern to implement Resolution 598 as a peace plan because this reflects exactly Iraq's basic interests and hopes of peace and stability for Iraq and all regional states. I believe, and you previously shared with us this conviction, that the required step is to embark on—without any hesitation—real direct negotiations under your supervision and with your participation and that of your assistants to reach common understanding of the rest of the provisions of Resolution 598 as well as the steps and timing of its implemenation as stipulated by the agreement of 8 August 1988.

With my esteem,

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

[Dated] 22 August 1989, corresponding to 21 Muharram 1410 Hegira

Official on Kurdish Issue, Relocation Plans

JN2108192789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 21 Aug 89

[Text] Geneva, 21 Aug (INA)—The Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the subcommittee on combating discrimination and protecting the minorities' rights, currently meeting in Geneva, has asserted that the great majority of Iraqi Kurds have returned from Turkey and expressed Iraq's willingness to take back those remaining to live in their homeland in peace and security.

In a speech he delivered today before the Human Rights Commission's subcommittee, the head of the Iraqi delegation, Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Duri, said that Iraq issued four amnesty decisions within 6 months. These decisions granted amnesty to all convicted, detained, and fugitive Iraqis, including the Kurds who took up arms against the government and collaborated with or joined the Iranian forces during the war.

The head of the Iraqi delegation was referring to the Revolution Command Council decisions No 735, 736, 860, and 130 issued on 8 September 1988, 30 November 1988, and 13 March 1989, respectively.

In his speech, Al-Duri explained that some Kurdish outlaws who collaborated with and joined the Iranian troops during the war fled to Turkey during the final stages of the liberation of the northern Iraqi territories. The head of the delegation said that in spite of this, the Iraqi borders will remain open to all Iraqi Kurds wishing to return to their homeland and live there in peace.

He explained that out of Iraq's concern for the safety and security of its citizens, and in view of the bitter experience of shelling and military operations witnessed by the Iraqi border villages and towns during the war, Iraq has decided to establish a depopulated border zone inside the Iraqi territories along the 1,200-km-long borders with a maximum distance of 30 km from the borderline.

He said this measure will not only be limited to the Iraqi Kurdistan region, but will also include the center and southern governorates. He also said that residents of those border areas will be moved to more secure areas close to their original residence according to their wishes, and that each family moved to a new residence will be compensated to enable it to build new houses. Each family was also allocated a plot of agricultural land, he said.

The head of the delegation reviewed the efforts exerted by Iraq to alleviate the negative consequences of the 8-year war in political, economic, and social fields.

In this regard, the head of the Iraqi delegation said that as soon as the cease-fire decision was announced, Iraq began to execute its program to rebuild its economy in a better way and make rapid plans for social rehabilitation. He also said that Iraq began very early to demobilize conscripts from the Armed Forces.

In the field of domestic political activity, the head of the delegation asserted that this field is experiencing a state of great openness through the establishment of the democratic frameworks and practices which are in harmony with the internationally-accepted norms in the field of human rights and basic liberties. In this regard, he pointed out that the new Constitution will soon be introduced after a referendum on it is held. He said that this Constitution will provide more guarantees for the freedom of opinion, ideology, and party affiliation and the freedom of the press. It will also strengthen the independence of the judiciary and provide the legal guarantees for citizens as approved by international accords.

Concluding his speech, the head of the Iraqi delegation expressed the Iraqi delegation's thanks for the subcommittee's members for their humanitarian contribution in the field of protecting human rights. He asserted that the delegation is completely willing to cooperate positively with the subcommittee regarding the strong and objective protection of human rights and basic liberties.

The conference is attended by 59 states, 69 nongovernmental organizations, and a number of UN agencies. The subcommittee began its proceedings in the UN European headquarters on 7 August. It is expected to conclude its meetings on 1 September.

Inquiry Says Company Violated Permits in Colombia

TA2408172889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1630 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Following reports of the alleged involvement of Israelis in illegal activities in Colombia, and in response to questions, the Defense Ministry spokesman states: An investigation carried out by the Defense Ministry shows that the defense establishment has not permitted Israelis to operate in any other country, including Colombia, for the transfer of military know how, or the training of nongovernmental elements or elements not operating under the auspices of the state.

Such permits are granted by the Defense Ministry within the framework of the order supervising the export of military know-how and weapons following a thorough study. Violation of the permit or its conditions, or any action carried out without permission, is an offense.

The Defense Ministry inquiry shows that the Hod Hahanit [Spearhead] Company asked for a permit but was rejected, and did not receive permission from the Defense Ministry to carry out any type of activity in Colombia. Today's reports that the firm received permits, which have since expired, are groundless. Today's investigation found that another Israeli firm which operated in Colombia violated the permit given to it, but no connection has been found at this stage between that firm and the activities recently published in the media.

The Defense Ministry reiterates that the export of weapons and security know how requires special permission, and that any activity carried out without such permission is a crime.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 24 August reports that "the Israeli Government has offered Colombia all possible assistance in its struggle against drug dealers." The report said the offer was made in a message sent by the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem to the Government of Colombia. The message also said that Israel takes a firm stand in the struggle against the drug problem, "therefore it calls on the Colombian Government to provide it with all the available information linked to the affair to enable the relevant authorities here to investigate the mater."]

Netanyahu Interviewed

TA2508064589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Friedman] Stories about the active involvement of Israelis in dirty deals in South America have been circulating here for a long time, but it was only yesterday that we heard of any action taken by our Foreign Ministry. Did you need the television videotape to become aware of the facts?

[Netanyahu] First of all, there is an accumulation of information, part of which is very vague. I stress that there have been similar reports in the past, which remained unconfirmed and unproven. We must understand that what we have here is a possibility, not a certainty. We would like to receive all the information first.

Second, when the recent reports reached us about 2 weeks ago, we convened an interministerial team that was to investigate the veracity of those reports. As you know, we have also requested the assistance of other countries to learn the truth about this Colombian affair.

[Friedman] Have we had any feedback from them?

[Netanyahu] We are still waiting for information, mainly from Colombia, which has most of the facts. But again, we relayed our message only yesterday, and I hope we will receive information soon.

[Dan] What does Israel mean when it offers assistance in the war against the drug threat? How can it help Colombia?

[Netanyahu] First of all, there is the question of the responsibility or involvement of Israelis. If these reports are correct—and I stress if—we must examine what legal and other steps we can take against the Israeli nationals who violated the law and acted in contravention of Israel's declared policy. We are currently at the stage of investigation and of fact gathering. We will take appropriate action later.

[Dan] Has Colombia issued any official appeal or expression of annoyance with the Israeli Government?

[Netanyahu] No, there has been no such expression. On the contrary, we initiated the message to Colombia on the basis of our usual policy. The problem of drugs is spreading and harming us here, too. International avenues are used to spread drug abuse, with drugs being manufactured in one country, shipped to another, and sold in a third. It is impossible to fight the drug threat—neither the drugs coming from Lebanon nor those from Colombia—without international cooperation. I believe the United States nowadays leads this struggle, but we, too, are active partners.

[Friedman] You must know better than I that the Israeli Government itself, and not only individual Israeli nationals, are accused of making security-related deals with various regimes which—to the civilized Western world, at least—appear to be of questionable repute. What are the criteria that guide Israel's actions as a state and when issuing permits to private companies to make deals with such countries?

[Netanyahu] I will not go into the details of the various criteria determined by the Defense Ministry, which are often related to our own defense issues. One criterion, however, is clear: We do not allow cooperation with elements which are not state-affiliated, such as cartels, groups, or gangs. All these are off limits. There is no question about that, and no grey areas. Therefore, if the reports from Colombia are true, the people acted counter to our policy and in violation of the law.

[Friedman] What about working with opposition movements to certain regimes?

[Netanyahu] I repeat: State movements only, or, let us say, state regimes. This is our policy. Any other action runs counter to our policy.

[Dan] When Israeli involvement in drug trafficking in Colombia is mentioned, do you know the number of Israelis referred to? Perhaps the statement is exaggerated, and there are no more than one or two, perhaps three Israelis?

[Netanyahu] That is a good point; reports are so often blown out of proportion. We seem to have some kind of reputation which often leads to exaggerated and fantastic—I do not wish to use the term romantic—reports in this context. In any event, there are many reports, and we would like to get to the core of truth behind them. After that, we will decide what action we can take. We may take legal steps, take away people's passports, and resort to other methods.

[Friedman] In the past, Mr Netanyahu, you belonged to an army unit in which our finest young people served. Have you found former army friends in any of the mentioned names?

[Netanyahu] No, and I hope never to find any.

[Dan] Do you understand the phenomenon?

[Netanyahu] If it exists!

[Friedman] Yes, if it exists. Our entire conversation is subject to this proviso, because we have no solid grounds for discussion.

[Netanyahu] If it exists, I think it reflects the moral corruption of a few individuals. The state cannot be responsible for what each of its nationals does outside the country. These people may have succumbed to mercenary or other temptations. The expression of selling one's soul to the devil is appropriate in their case.

[Friedman] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, thank you very much.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

Kidnapped Israeli Found in Well in West Bank

TA2508100289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0912 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpts] This is Shalom Qital with some good news. Sha'ul Mish'aniyah, the Israeli kidnapped on the way to Tulkarm, was found safe and sound several minutes ago. We were phoned by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, and he gave us this good news. Here is the conversation we held several minutes ago:

[Begin recording] [Mordekhay] I would like to inform the Israeli people that we have found the kidnapped man. We are near a village in Judaea and Samaria. I would like to express my great gratitude to the General Security Forces for their exceptional work and to the operational teams that combed the area over the last few days, found Sha'ul's hiding place and rescued him. He is safe and sound and just spoke to his family.

[Qital] Who were the kidnappers, and what were the circumstances of the kidnapping?

[Mordekhay] I do not feel the details of the circumstances should be made public at this stage. The main thing is that the man is healthy; he was examined by a doctor. [passage omitted]

[Qital] Maj Gen Mordekhay, I can hear how excited everyone is, but I would still like to hear a little of what you can tell us about the kidnapping.

[Mordekhay] The man was kidnapped in Tulkarm, as you know. He was brought to one of the villages and was placed in a well. Through concentrated efforts by the Shin Bet, the operational forces, the special forces, the various headquarters, the district and division commanders—all working together—we managed to find the hiding place and locate the man. I spoke to him first, and he recognized me at once. We pulled him out of the well, and he was then examined by a doctor and spoke with his family.

[Qital] He was kept in a well, you say?

[Mordekhay] He was hidden in a well which was dry.

[Qital] Have the kidnappers been caught?

[Mordekhay] All the rest will be taken care of.

[Qital] Thank you and have a nice weekend. [end recording]

Suspects Questioned

TA2508103689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Sha'ul Mish'aniyah, the kidnapped Bat Yam jeweler, was found this morning alive and well in the village of 'Abud not far from Tulkarm. He was found in a dry well in the village. Mish'aniyah said he did not know his kidnappers. The Bat Yam jeweler was found

after the security forces yesterday succeeded in capturing one of the suspects in the kidnapping. This morning, the suspect led the members of the security services to the well where he had been concealed by his kidnappers.

Mish'aniyah spoke with Defense Minister Rabin and thanked him for the efforts made to save his life. He also spoke with his family.

Defense Minister Rabin and Chief of Staff Shomron praised the security services on their success in finding Mish'aniyah. A number of suspects have been questioned in connection with the kidnapping.

U.S. Said To Threaten Support for Elections

PM2408141589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Aug 89 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Washington Threatened Israel With Withdrawing Its Support For Election Plan"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Informed Palestinian sources in Cairo have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the United States has recently threatened Israel that it will withdraw its support for the plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip if Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir adheres to the new conditions imposed by the hard-line wing of the Likud Party.

The sources said that the U.S. threat was conveyed to Israel during the talks held by John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, during his visit to Tel Aviv, where he handed a message to that effect from the U.S. Secretary of States James Baker to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

The sources pointed out that the U.S. Administration informed the Israeli Government that the rigid conditions have placed difficulties in the way of U.S. moves aimed at persuading the other parties, especially the Arab and Palestinian parties as well as the Soviet Union and the EC, to accept the plan.

Meanwhile, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Israeli Government promised the U.S. Administration to send its answers to U.S. queries about the election plan next month, especially with regard to the way in which the elections would be held.

Chill in Ties Denied

TA2408160989 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Interview with Moshe Arad, ambassador to Washington, by Dan Shilon; in the studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Shilon] The main issue for which we invited you to our studio, sir, is the Israeli peace initiative. What has happened regarding it in the past few days as you view it from your Washington perspective?

[Arad] Not much has happened in the past few days. I believe this is because the issue on which political contacts between ourselves and the United States has been centered has been the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd. On whole, I would say that the Israeli political initiative has been adopted by the administration. Today it serves as the vehicle or platform on which U.S. foreign policy on the Middle East rides. I believe that the U.S. Administration has gone to great lengths—I would say it has been making intensive efforts toward the Arab and European states, and the USSR—to ensure the promotion of the Israeli initiative, and to try to locate Palestinian interlocutors for it.

[Shilon] I ask you about the past few days as the background for a possible U.S. disappointment in their partner for talks, namely the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat.

[Arad] A great disappointment can be noted today in the United States—which should come as no surprise to us—in the resolutions of the Fatah convention, and remarks that followed them. At the same time, we must not forget that despite the fact that the United States still maintains its dialogue with the PLO, it did not see fit, and has not tried, to force us or indirectly suggest that the PLO be our partner for negotiations on the promotion of the Israeli political initiative. As far as the United States is concerned, if it had any hopes that the the PLO would give the Palestinian Arabs a go-ahead, it is greatly disappointed now. This, however, should merely be yet another indication to us that Fatah and the PLO still speak with more than one voice.

[Shilon] Reports have also been published mentioning a cold wind blowing from Washington to Jerusalem. You are standing in the breeze...

[Arad, interrupting] I have felt no draft, or any cold weather, in terms of relations in the past couple of weeks. I believe you are referring to a report published in THE NEW YORK TIMES last week.

[Shilon] Yes.

[Arad] I would say that THE NEW YORK TIMES report was some 2 and ½ to 3 weeks late. There was some degree of tension between us immediately after Shaykh 'Ubayd was brought to Israel. The Americans asked many questions about it. I believe we should recognize the basic problem, namely, that the administration is not too enthusiastic about dealing with the issue of the U.S. hostages at this stage, or about the position the President is in. [passage omitted]

Survey Polls Attitudes on Fate of Territories

TA2508081689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Aug 89 p 4

[Report by Elihu Katz, Hebrew University professor of communications and sociology and scientific director of the Israel Institute of Applied Social Reseach, and Majid al-Haj, Haifa University senior lecturer in sociology, on the institute's June survey of Israeli Jews and Arabs]

[Text] While the Jews are split over whether to annex or yield the occupied territories, Israeli Arabs, almost unanimously, wish to relinquish them. Asked to consider each of nine alternative plans for acting on the situation, the two top choices of the Jews are "transfer" and "autonomy"—i.e., respectively, "to cause the Arabs to leave, offering compensation" (51 percent) or, alternatively, "to annex the territories, offering the Arabs administrative autonomy" (48 percent).

Many Jews are also willing "to yield most of the territories in favour of a federation between Jordan and the Arabs" (39 percent). All three choices involve an underlying desire to thwart the security threat implicit in Palestinian independence by dispersing the population or relying on the surveilance of Israel or Jordan.

In sharp contrast, Israeli Arabs almost all opt to establish a Palestinian state, "like other states" (95 percent). Less unanimously, substantial numbers of Arab respondents agree "to withdraw unilaterally from most of the territories without further intervention" (54 percent), or to yield the territories in favour of a demilitarized Palestinian state (34 percent).

These data are from the June survey of the Israel Institute of Applied Social Research in its first simultaneous sampling of both Jews and Arabs. 1,441 adults (1,194 Jews and 247 Arabs) were asked about each of nine options, one by one. All respondents could express their opinions about each option. Four of the options call for annexation, another four calling for yielding. One proposes to maintain the status quo. Repeated measurement of public attitudes towards these options will serve as a "barometer"—like the stock market or the weather report—of changes in the climate of opinion towards the peace process.

Only 13 percent of the population (16 percent of the Jews, 4 percent of the Arabs) consider the status quo an adequate solution. The vast majority do not wish "to leave the situation as it is today."

Jewish respondents find that the annexation options are more acceptable, on average, than the yielding options. The annexation options of "transfer" (51 percent), "autonomy" (48 percent), annex without equal rights (33 percent), and annex with equal rights (24 percent), range from 51 percent to 24 percent. Among the yielding options—confederation with Jordan (30 percent), demilitarized Palestinian state (24 percent), unilateral withdrawal (18 percent) and a full-fledged Palestinian state (14 percent), the comparable range is 30 percent to 14 percent. There is a correlation between approval of the options of "transfer" and "annex without equal rights" such that those who choose one of these options are quite likely to choose the other. By the same token, "autonomy" and "annex with equal rights" are also correlated. Note that the first pair ("transfer" and "without rights") both deny rights to the population of the territories, while the latter pair ("autonomy" and "equal rights") ascribe partial or full rights.

Although there are differences in the degree of relative popularity of the yielding options—federation with Jordan is most popular, and a full-fledged Palestinian state is least popular—the four dovish options correlate highly. Those who are in favour of a demilitarized state, for example, are more likely (than opponents of a demilitarized state) to approve of unilateral withdrawal, federation with Jordan, and a full-fledged state.

On the basis of these correlations, it appears that the hawks divided into those who annex the territories with little or no concern for the rights of their population, and moral hawks who would recognize both group and individual rights in the annexation process. The dovish solutions are more of a piece (the least highly correlated pair being "federation" and "full-fledged state"). The only (weak) correlation between a yielding option and an annexing option is between "full-fledged state" and "annex with rights." Both options incorporate full rights—for the group ("full-fledged state") or for the individual ("annex with rights"). One might have expected "autonomy" and "federation" to be similarly related, or even "autonomy" and "demilitarized state," since each of these options implies a certain dependence on outside power, but we find no such relationship at all.

When Jewish respondents are asked further to appraise the nine options separately for the West Bank and for Gaza, there are virtually no differences in attitudes towards the two territories. "Unilateral withdrawal" is the only option that is differently appraised. More Jews agree that Israel should withdraw unilaterally from Gaza (28 percent) than approve of unilateral withdrawal from the West Bank (18 percent).

For the Arab sector, the picture is altogether different. Almost all Israeli Arabs (95 percent) favour a full-fledged state. Half favour unilateral withdrawal from both the West Bank and Gaza. About one third accept a demilitarized state, and only a fifth accept the idea of federation with Jordan. This ranking of the yielding options by the Arabs is opposite to the Jewish ranking which puts "federation" first and "fully fledged state" last.

The only one of the annexing options that attracts Arab support is "annexation with rights," the least popular of the Jewish versions of annexation. Eighteen percent of the Arabs, and 24 percent of the Jews, support this idea. We did not ask either group whether they were attracted to the bi-national state implied in this option.

Venturing a generalization, one might suggest that the dovish solutions want the Arabs of the territories out of sight, incorporated, if possible, in one or another of the less threatening versions of a Palestinian entity. No less than the hawks who favour transfer, the doves want to achieve a secure, Jewish and democractic state—but by moral means. (From this point of view, unilateral withdrawal is the dovish counterpart of transfer since it abandons responsibility once the separation is made.) Paradoxically, and excepting transfer, the hawkish options—autonomy and one or another form of annexation—call for a shared life with the Arabs, collectively and individually. While moral doves worry about the **collective** rights of the Palestinians, moral hawks have to worry about their rights as **individuals**.

'Hawkish' Attitudes Seen on Immediate Issues

TA2508104889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Aug 89 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Dan Petreanu]

[Text] According to a Jaffee Centre Study to be officially released next week, Israelis are becoming more dovish on long-term policy issues such as territories for peace, but more hawkish on matters of immediate policy.

The report—entitled Public Opinion in Israel and the Intifadah [uprising]: Changes in Security Attitudes 1987-88—also concludes that the intifadah has made Israelis more "realistic" about the options available to them, with the result that fewer people said they would encourage the Arabs to leave the country.

According to Tel Aviv University political scientist Asher Arian, co-author of the study—which derived from an ongoing Jaffee Centre study on public opinion and national security—the results are especially accurate because of its "unusual methodology:" The same sample of 416 people was asked the same questions on two occasions a year apart (December 1987 and December 1988).

"We were in the field the very first day of the intifadah," Arian says. "Because of the uniqueness of the timing, we decided to make an effort to return to the sample."

This largely eliminates the normal considerations of sampling error, and renders significant even minute changes in opinions, he said.

The report found a hardening of attitudes on issues that had short-term implications. Support for negotiations with the PLO, which Arian defines as a short-term issue, dropped from 37 percent in 1987 to 32 percent in 1988. Opposition to an international peace conference rose from 37 percent to 45 percent.

In 1987, 27 percent chose increased military strength rather than negotiations, as the best means to prevent another war with the Arab states; in 1988, this figure rose to 38 percent. The percentage of those who favour security interests over the rule of law rose dramatically, from 28 percent to 48 percent.

But in the areas of policy which Arian views as having more long-term importance, Israelis appeared to be adopting more dovish views. The percentage favouring territorial compromise rose from 44 percent in 1987 to 48 percent a year later. Those who would agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories increased from 20 percent to 25 percent.

Arian also claims that Israelis have become more "realistic" as a result of the intifadah. Evidence of this, he says, is the decrease in the proportion who expressed "definite" support for "encouraging the Arabs to leave:" This figure dropped from 35 percent to 27 percent.

The political impact of the intifadah, however, benefited the Likud. Arian and co-author Refa'el Ventura devised a five-point policy scale measuring political attitudes and measuring the shifts to the right or left. This scale showed shifts towards the right ("hawkishness") in virtually every category into which the sample was broken down.

The Labour voters in 1988 were among the only groups that experienced a moderation of views. "This shows you the impossibility of Labour's position," says Arian. "The party's voters were a group that ran totally counter to the dominant trends in society."

Interestingly, another group that did not shift to the right was composed of respondents who reported having served in the territories in the intervening year—whose attitudes remained unchanged. "If you look at the shift in the population, they actually can be seen as having become more moderate in a relative sense," Arian notes. "So it's certainly incorrect to say that service in the territories makes you more hard-line."

Especially significant, says Arian, is the finding that the most radical hawkish shift occurred among respondents who said they believed Israel still faced a very high degree of external threat.

These people, he says, will require quite considerable "confidence-building" measures before they support any policy that is perceived as "conciliatory."

Between 1987 and 1988, the proportion of those defining themselves as hawks increased from 33.3 percent to 41.4 percent. Doves decreased slightly from 32.5 percent to 31.3 percent. The middle decreased from 34.2 to 27.2 [percent].

"The decline of the middle in this kind of sample is very significant," Arian says. "But you see the ability of the political system to allow polarization and at the same time use a sort of centripetal mechanism to stabilize, and that's the national unity government."

The unity government's policies, says Arian, are "something these data indicate the public wants, understands and will support."

Arian is willing to speculate that the process of moderation on long-term issues will continue. "It's persistent and quite consistent, not a major shift in the wind, but a creeping process which is significant."

First 1-Year Administrative Detentions Ordered

TA2508085989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] The security forces have resorted to 1-year administrative detention orders in the arrest of two individuals—one from the Bethlehem and the other from the Hebron area—who are suspected of having organized disturbances. Our correspondent Moti Amir notes that this is the first instance in which the regulation allowing 1-year administrative detentions has been enforced. The detainees are Ahmad Salim Shilaltah, 25, from the village of Si'ir near Hebron, and Mahir Faraj, 23, from the al-Duhayshah refugee camp.

This week, the West Bank Civil Administration issued a green identity card barring Mutawakil Taha, head of the Palestinian Writers Association in Judaea and Samaria, from entering Israel. The man was released from 6-month administrative detention about 1 week ago. At the beginning of the intifadah [uprising], he was held under administrative detention orders for a period of 18 months.

Near the al-Duhayshah refugee camp yesterday, five Arab residents from the Bethlehem District were wounded when stones were hurled at their cars. One of the residents, who lost control of the car and overturned, sustained severe injuries. The wounded were evacuated to a Bethlehem hospital.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that this morning, the security forces lifted the curfew in the Samaria village of 'Arurah. The curfew was imposed on Wednesday, after a Molotov cocktail was hurled at an IDF patrol. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio at 0630 GMT on 25 August adds: "In the Gaza Strip, a curfew was imposed on the al-Shati' refugee camp this morning. The curfews in several Rafah neighborhoods remain in effect."]

The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria has closed the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] preparatory school in the al-Jalazun refugee camp, north of Ramallah, in the wake of disturbances staged by students on school grounds. Our correspondent notes that this is the second closure of this school in the past 2 weeks.

Meridor Terms Deportation Best 'Weapon'

TA2508080689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Deportation is the best weapon against the intifadah [uprising]. Now that the legal obstacles have been removed, the pace and number of deportations should be increased. These remarks were made yesterday by Justice Minister Dan Meridor, in the wake of the High Court of Justice approval of the deportation of four residents of the territories. Our legal affairs correspondent Amir Fink heard Minister Meridor, who addressed a meeting of the Tel Aviv branch of Herut.

[Begin recording] [Fink] The intifadah is a war in every aspect, says Justice Minister Dan Meridor, and the number of Arab fatalities shows that their lot is also not an easy one. As in every war, the question is who will prevail. We must come out the winners, says Minister Meridor.

Since the beginning of the intifadah, 456 Arabs from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza were killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire, including 96 who were killed by plastic bullets. Over 7,500 Arabs were wounded. The high number of casualties refutes the prevalent opinion that Israel's attitude to rioters is too lenient. Minister Meridor adds that the pace of deportations should be intensified and the number increased.

[Meridor] I am not certain that detention and imprisonment are equally efficient. I think that deportations are the most efficient method. I do not mean mass deportations, but the deportation of inciters, uprising leaders, and rioters is an effective weapon. I think this method should be continued, and deportations should be carried our with the appropriate urgency and speed.

[Fink] The minister adds: We have now solved most of the problems that prevented the security establishment from acting legally in the field. The Supreme Court of Justice, acting as the High Court, also understands the need for quick and significant solutions. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Request for Deportation to Europe Dismissed

TA2508102289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Taysir 'Aruri, one of the four intifadah [uprising] leaders who are to be deported soon, this morning appealed to the High Court of Justice to rule that he be deported to Europe, rather than Lebanon, where he would fear for his life. The judges ruled that the request is not an issue for the court and that 'Aruri should appeal to the authorities in charge of executing the deportation.

'Increased' Violence in Territories Noted

TA2508070389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] believes that the increased scope of violence in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza stems, among other reasons, from the resolution to escalate the armed struggle, adopted at the Fatah general congress in Tunis, and from the resumption of studies in Judaea and Samaria.

Our correspondent Moti Amir notes that the new pattern of violence is marked by sophisticated terrorist attacks, such as the ambushes laid by Molotov cocktail throwers

and the incident in which gunfire was directed at a soldier at an observation post in Nabulus.

In recent days, the security forces have detained 120 suspects who have been wanted for a long time. The detention operation will continue until all the wanted individuals are apprehended and put on trial.

It has been learned that the IDF will employ all legal means and methods, including observation posts and encampments along traffic axes where Israeli cars are frequently stoned. Our correspondent further notes that the procedures for opening fire at masked individuals in Judaea and Samaria call for IDF soldiers to use plastic bullets rather than live ammunition.

Jordanian, Iraqi Lawyers Urge Boycott of Syria

JN2208112489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Amman, 22 Aug (INA)—Iraqi and Jordanian lawyers have urged the Arab nation to boycott the Syrian regime economically and politically until it abides by the implementation of Arab resolutions calling for resolving the Lebanese crisis and until it responds to the will of the Arab nation.

In a statement issued here today following a meeting held by a delegation from the Iraqi Lawyers Union under Dr Fawzi Muhammad Sami, the union's vice president, and a delegation representing the Jordanian Lawyers Association under Jalal 'Abbasi, president of the association, the lawyers called for an emergency and urgent Arab summit to impose a solution that restores unity and sovereignty to Lebanon and ends the tragedy imposed on the Lebanese people by the anti-Arab alliance.

The statement also calls for the withdrawal of all the invading forces from the Lebanese territory and for convening a popular Arab conference to support the Lebanese Arab people and their unity and sovereignty. [passage omitted]

'Equal Deal' Trade Agreement With USSR Noted

JN2108074289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Aug 89 pp 1, 13

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and the Soviet Union, under an equal deal agreement, have agreed to exchange annually, in equal amounts, products worth $50 million.

The minutes of the meetings of the Jordanian-Soviet joint committee that were held in Moscow recently under Tahir al-Masri, deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs; and Konstantin Katushev, Soviet minister of foreign economic relations, indicate that the two sides agreed to consolidate bilateral relations of cooperation in various industrial and technological fields.

In the industrial field, it has been agreed that the Soviet Union will contribute toward two projects to produce phosphoric acid and timber. The Soviet Union will also contribute toward joint industrial projects, especially in the agricultural sector.

In the trade field, a free flow of commodities between the two countries in accordance with the equal deal agreement has been approved. The two sides also agreed to decide on setting up trade centers in the two countries before the end of this year.

In the field of tourist cooperation, the two sides agreed to facilitate the exchange of visits by tourist groups to tourist and cultural sites in both countries.

In the technological and technical fields, the two sides agreed to exchange expertise and visits for the benefit of both countries.

Awqaf Minister on Plan To Confront Extremism

JN1908165689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Excerpt] His Eminence Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, minister of Islamic affairs, holy places, and religious trusts, today returned to Amman after taking part in the meetings of the ministers of Islamic affairs, holy places, and religious trusts of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] states which concluded on Wednesday [16 August] in Baghdad.

In a press statement, his eminence said that the ministers agreed to confront the subversive trends, party and extremist ideas, and doctrines of al-Batiniyah [school of thought in Islam characterized by divining a hidden, secret meaning in the revealed texts] which conflict with principles of Islam wherever they may be. He pointed out that the four ministers approved a studious plan to expose the methods of these false doctrines and decided to set up a permanent joint committee for that purpose. He also said that the ministers also agreed to prepare qualified youths to confront this conspiracy and to explain the true nature of Islam and its centrism.

Dr al-Khayyat said that they also agreed to draft a joint plan for cultural seasons on periodic and non-periodic Islamic occasions in which the awqaf ministers and 'ulemas from the ACC countries will take part. He added that the ministers agreed to hold a grand celebration in Egypt under the patronage of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the occasion of Prophet Muhammad's birthday and that the ACC countries will take part in this celebration. He added that the ministers agreed to coordinate among the ACC countries regarding the pilgrimage missions and to cooperate in this field.

His eminence the minister said that it was agreed to standardize the curriculums, methods, and requirements to propagate Islam. He also said that the ministers discussed other subjects and made the necessary decisions. [passage omitted]

CBJ Issues Memorandum on Dinar Exchange Rate

JN1408165689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Aug 89

[Text] The Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has issued a new memorandum to the commercial banks and licensed financial companies on its readiness to meet their foreign currency needs at 765 fils to the dollar on condition that they observe a maximum selling price of 770 fils and that they do not take any exchange rate commission to meet the various requirements of their clients which

have not been mentioned in its memorandum on the list of subsidized basic commodities and the expenses of study abroad.

The CBJ is following the foreign currency market closely as well as the impact of the measures it has declared recently in order to carry out its policy to stabilize the dinar exchange rate.

In the occupied Arab territories, the price of the Jordanian dinar continues its gradual rise against the dollar and the dinar has begun to return to its price of 4 months ago. Reports from the occupied territories today quoted sources at the money exchange market in the occupied Arab territories as saying that the selling price of the dinar against the dollar today reached 710 fils and the buying price reached 650 fils.

The sources added that the confidence of the Palestinian citizens in the dinar has returned to its previous level following the recent shakeup of the dinar, stressing that what has recently happened to the dinar was no more than a temporary crisis. They also added that the movement of the exchange market today showed a large-scale buying of the dinar and that the citizens were trying to get rid of other currencies so that the dinar was no more offered for sale. Palestinian newspapers in the occupied West Bank today said that the selling price of the dollar against the dinar yesterday dropped to 750 fils and the buying price to 760 fils, while the selling price reached 775 fils and the buying price reached 785 fils last Saturday [12 August].

CBJ Governor on Hard Currency Reserves

JN2408125889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], has told our radio that the Kingdom's hard currency reserves at the moment are in the range of half a billion dollars, thus enabling the country to cope with the sharp fluctuations in the dinar's exchange rates as well as to meet Jordan's foreign commitments.

It is to be noted that the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves plummeted to $20 million last May.

Al-Nabulsi said central bank governors of the Gulf states will convene on the sidelines of a mid-September meeting of Arab central bank governors in Tunis to consider Jordan's proposal that Gulf countries place reciprocal deposits at the CBJ, which would in turn redeposit them in the Arab Monetary Fund. These desposits, Al-Nabulsi added, will form enough reserves for Jordan to meet its future obligations and will be a source of money in the Arab Monetary Fund. The CBJ, he went on to say, seeks to attain a uniform exchange rate for the dinar by the end of the year. He estimated the dinar exchange rate for the dollar this month to hover between 600 and 700 fils.

On the standing of the Petra Bank, Al-Nabulsi emphasized that legal action will be initiated against its managers if they are found to have been engaged in any irregularties.

Security Agency Aborts 6 Drug Smuggling Attempts

JN1708072889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17-18 Aug 89 p 3

[Excerpts] Amman (Petra, J.T.)—The Public Security Department (PSD) Wednesday released details about attempts to smuggle drugs into the country and to peddle counterfeit U.S. dollars during the first half of August, and said 14 persons were arrested in the course of these operations.

A statement by the PSD said that the authorities aborted six attempts to smuggle drugs, seizing 2,200 grammes of heroin and 10.5 kilogrammes of hashish from the drug traffickers.

A six-member group of non-Jordanian Arab nationals was apprehended by the police during an attempt to sell the heroin which was found to have been concealed in a car and in their underwears.

The vehicle used to smuggle the drugs bore a licence plate from a neighbouring Arab country and some of the heroin was intended to be sold in a third Arab state, the PSD statement noted.

According to the statement also, an eight-member group, all Jordanians were apprehended while trying to sell hashish. It said all the apprehended persons were found to have previous police records. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, PSD Director General 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali announced Wednesday that 56 cases linked to counterfeit American dollars were handled by the police in Jordan in the first half of this month.

Al-Majali said that in the past weeks many Jordanians reported that they bought counterfeit dollars from the black market, and said that it was expected in view of the unjustified demand on U.S. dollars.

On Aug. 9, the PSD announced that it had seized a total of 144,000 counterfeit United States dollars since the beginning of 1989.

It said that $50,000 were seized in an attempt to smuggle the money into Jordan from Syria on Aug. 8.

Al-Majali advised members of the public to avoid any dealings with the black market and to resort to banks and financial institutions for dealings in foreign currency.

Soviets Reportedly Negotiate Hostage Issue

NC2408114389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Citing informed sources in Beirut, the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-BAYAN reported that the Soviet Union has told the United States that the hostages held captive by extremist groups in Lebanon are alive. The paper points out that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visited Tehran during the hostage crisis and encouraged Iranian officials to hold a dialogue with U.S. officials. The paper adds that the two sides welcomed the Soviet efforts in this regard, noting that this was evident in the fact that the dialogue has developed into negotiations through the Soviet Union. This made the Revolutionary Justice Organization stop its threats to execute U.S. hostage Joseph Cicippio.

Reportage on Soviet Official's Visit to Beirut

Meets Al-Husayni, Al-Huss

NC2408164989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov today met first with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and then with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni in the presence of Vasiliy Kolotusha, the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon. It has been learned that his in-depth and comprehensive discussions with Al-Husayni and Al-Huss dealt with all stages and causes of the Lebanese crisis. Both Al-Husayni and Al-Huss reiterated to the Soviet envoy their support for the Arab tripartite committee, the Oran summit statement, and the Casablanca resolutions as an approach for reaching a solution to the crisis on the basis of reforms and coexistence among all Lebanese.

Al-Husayni and Al-Huss pointed out that the core of the Lebanese crisis is the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and that to end this occupation it is necessary that the Israeli forces withdraw in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 425, 508, and 509.

More on Al-Husayni Meeting

NC2408153689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] As part of his quick diplomatic mission, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Gennadiy Tarasaov met with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni at his residence this afternoon. Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Vasiliy Kolotusha also attended the meeting, which entailed a lengthy discussion of Lebanese developments and efforts to achieve a political solution.

After the meeting, Tarasaov said in a statement: We fully support the Casablanca conference's resolutions on the Lebanese issue. We support the revival of the tripartite committee's activities. I believe that there is a great need for this committee's activities. The Soviet Union acts on this basis in the region.

Answering a question, Tarasov said: The object of the Soviet move is to reactivate the practical efforts for initiating the real national dialogue and to reactivate the Arab and international efforts.

Tarasov was asked to what extent the Soviet Union accepts the presence of the French fleets in Lebanon. He replied: The Soviet-French communique issued by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev and President Francois Mitterrand includes some important points such as the consolidation of the cease-fire, the lifting of the blockades, and support for the Arab tripartite committee's efforts. It mentions nothing else.

The Soviet envoy earlier met with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. He is scheduled to meet later with His Beatitude Patriarch Nasrallah Sufayr and Michel 'Awn.

Cited on Agreement With Syria

NC2408194489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov is scheduled to move to the eastern area tomorrow to meet with Prime Minister Michel 'Awn and Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sufayr after having held discussions with Dr Salim al-Huss and Husayn al-Husayni today. [passage omitted]

Tarasov emphasized that his discussions with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' have resulted in practical agreement on ways of achieving a cease-fire, progress toward national reconcilliation, and the reactivation of the Arab tripartite committee's activities. He also reiterated Moscow's support for the Casablanca conference's resolutions on Lebanon and the Arab tripartite committee's activities.

Notes French Fleet's Mission

NC2408181389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] In a statement carried by AFP a short time ago, Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov emphasized that the time has come to provide opportunities to achieve peace in Lebanon.

Commenting on the French naval moves, the Soviet official said that his government was informed of the French Government's clarifications on the humanitarian nature of the French fleet's mission. He added: We do not discuss military plans with France and the French Government does not discuss such matters with us.

Said To Carry Draft Plan

NC2508061089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Press reports today spoke of a draft plan carried by Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov. The draft plan calls for consolidating the cease-fire, lifting the siege, and reviving the tripartite committee. Under the plan, the French will guarantee not to supply weapons to the eastern areas by sea, while the Soviets will ensure that no weapons from Syria are sent to its allies by land.

Comments After Meeting Patriarch

NC2508093689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] The meeting between Patriarch Sufayr and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Gennadiy Tarasov ended a short while ago.

In a statement after the meeting, Tarasov said: We both believe that the time has come to start a political process to end the Lebanese crisis. This could be done by intensifying efforts to restore the Arab committee work and implement the Casablanca summit resolutions and consolidate national reconciliation in Lebanon. He added: This is the only way to do it. He stressed the need to stabilize the cease-fire, because it is impossible to exert any efforts under the exchange of fire. He added: Diplomacy must be given a chance, emphasizing that there could be no military solutions to the Lebanese problem. All problems must be discussed in a political framework.

Tarasov is scheduled to visit B'abda Palace at 1200 for a meeting with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn.

Discusses 'Crisis' With 'Awn

NC2508111289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov discussed the scope of the Soviet endeavors to end the Lebanese crisis.

In a statement after the meeting Tarasov said: General 'Awn and I exchanged views on the situation in Lebanon. The Government of the Soviet Union is deeply concerned about the Lebanese people's tragedy, continued suffering, and loss in human lives and property damage. The continuation of the conflict in Lebanon will directly affect stability in the Middle East. Tarasov added: The Soviet Union seeks to encourage and support efforts that aim to consolidate peace in Lebanon. We are concerned with holding contacts and consultations with the various factions to promote the peace option, and this is the main objective of our visit to and meetings in Beirut.

The Soviet envoy added: The Soviet Government gives its absolute support to the Casablanca summit resolutions, and it welcomes the resumption of the Arab tripartite committee work. He added: We believe that in the time being the committee needs to revive its work in order to carry out the task it has been entrusted to do in Casablanca. It is extremely important to double the efforts to ensure a cease-fire in Lebanon, achieve stability, and create an appropriate atmosphere for national reconciliation and peace in Lebanon, he added. We are certain that military solutions will not solve the Lebanese problem, because only a political solution can work, and it is important to create and not waste opportunities.

Departs Beirut for Damascus

NC2508160089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The Soviet efforts on Lebanon have been receiving much attention. The important question being asked is whether the Soviets will succeed where others have failed.

Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov answered this question by telling our correspondent: Let us wait.

Sources close to those who met with the Soviet envoy have stated that Tarasov has expressed his country's fear that the current wave of violence could lead to the disintegratation of the Lebanese system, which Moscow rejects. This is why Moscow acted quickly to approach Damascus, its strategic ally, and some of its Lebanese supporters to brief them on the nature of the Soviet efforts which are designed to find the fastest way to halt the bloodshed, establish a security authority, and attempt to resolve the problem facing the Arab tripartite committee, which is supported by Washington, Moscow, Paris, and the Arab states.

Our diplomatic correspondent says that the Soviet efforts are complete and leave no room for maneuvering because the Soviets have embarked on the search for a serious solution. Our correspondent adds that the Soviets have set out to remedy the situation in phases. Therefore, they have focused on the need for a cease-fire and for lifting the blockades, which would provide a good opportunity for discussing the political issues. Our correspondent says that the Soviet envoy has proposed general principles that conform with the principles of the Lebanese Government represented by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, but that the details of these proposals were not discussed.

Our diplomatic correspondent adds that the Soviet envoy appeared to be satisfied with his discussions with Gen 'Awn and found him open and positive, contrary to the image the Syrians had tried to portray to Tarasov.

Tarasov, who left for Damascus this afternoon, met with Patriarch Sufayr this morning. He then met with Prime Minister Gen Michel 'Awn at noon. [passage omitted]

Soviet Warship Said To Join French, U.S. Ships

LD2508074389 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Excerpts] As we have been reporting since 0600 this morning, the French ships off the Lebanese coast have been joined by U.S. ships. The U.S. squadron is only 80 kms off the Lebanese coast and is made up of the battleship Iowa and its escort of seven ships. [passage omitted]

Moreover, the French and American ships are to be joined by the Soviet guided missile cruiser "Kirov."

VOL Notes U.S. 6th Fleet's Movement

NC2508083989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Units from the U.S. 6th Fleet are reported to have been moving in the Mediterranean. Speculations link this movement to developments in Lebanon. According to reports, the movement involved the U.S. battleship "Iowa" and the frigates ("Thomas C. Gate"), ("G. King"), (?"Battle"), and (?"San Jacinto").

It has been learned that the Soviet cruiser "Kirov" left the Black Sea for an unspecified destinatation.

Military Source on 'Contradictory' U.S. Position

NC1908201489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Aug 89

[Text] Following the contradiction in the U.S. Department of State's official stands, in which first one statement said Syria was directly accused of escalating the military situation in Lebanon and then another statement said there is no evidence of this, a Lebanese military source has expressed surprise that the United States, with all the different, advanced, and very accurate equipment for monitoring and checking it possesses, cannot discover signs of the Syrian guns' involvement in recent attacks on the eastern areas.

The military source asked: Do some of the militias Damascus is using as a facade for its aggression possess this vast arsenal of 240-mm and 280-mm guns and all these vast quantities of weapons?

Replying to these military queries, some political sources have said that the recent U.S. stand is merely a failed attempt to mend the Syrian regime's course and an unpassable way for the Syrian regime out of the international and Arab siege under which it has found itself.

Syrians Reportedly Move Surface-to-Air Missiles

NC2508095489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Sources have reported that during the past few days the Syrian troops moved a number of surface-to-air missile batteries into the northern coast between al-Batrun and Shikka. The same sources add that these batteries are equipped with advanced Soviet radar.

In another development, movement by some Syrian naval units south of Tripoli and by Syrian naval patrols inside the Lebanese territorial waters have been reported.

Al-Huss Asks France To Cancel Fleet's Mission

NC2508095089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today asked France to cancel the mission of its fleet in Lebanon. In a statement to AFP, Dr al-Huss said that the French did well when they moved their fleet from the Lebanese shores, adding: We believe it would be much better if they cancel the operation and end this chapter. The prime minister said that France has wronged Lebanon when it embarked on this step and it should rectify the situation.

The prime minister went on to say that the French have been trying in vain to convince the people that their fleet's mission is humanitarian. They could not deny that their naval units are military. The Lebanese citizen, who has been the victim of an endless war, cannot believe that aircraft carriers, warships, or destroyers are humanitarian in nature. Dr al-Huss emphasized that fears were aroused because the French fleet's move coincided with the repeated statements by a side involved in the Lebanese conflict urging France to interfere militarily.

Amal, Hizballah Leaders Threaten French Ships

NC2408154589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] In Tyre, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has threatened to open fire on French vessels if they approach the Lebanese coast. Responding to President Mitterrand's statement that no one dictates policy to France, Birri remarked: We also are free to act as we wish. This came in a statement which he made following a meeting which was held in Tyre and attended by about 150 Amal and Hizballah figures.

Shaykh 'Abbas Musawi, a leading Hizballah figure, said after the meeting that the participants had agreed to spread terror everywhere if the French naval vessels approach Lebanese shores or try to assist the Christians.

New Group Issues Threat

NC2508100389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] An organization, previously unknown, calling itself The Organization in Defense of the Oppressed [Munazzamat al-Difa' 'An al-mustad'afin] has threatened to strike at the French interests if the French military intervenes in Lebanon. The organization sent a

statement to a foreign news agency in Beirut saying that it will be in the forefront to confront French intervention. It affirmed that France is one of the global arrogance states which fight oppressed people.

'Awn Source Urges Al-Huss' Boldness in Dialogue

NC2408183489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] A source close to Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has called on Dr Salim al-Huss to take a bold step in the direction of dialogue and emphasized the determination to assist in liberating the popular Lebanese will from every occupation, repression, and coercion. The call came in response to a statement by Dr al-Huss in which he commented on Gen 'Awn's call for a dialogue.

The source said: It is necessary first of all to remind Dr al-Huss that Gen 'Awn's decision to place liberation before dialogue was made after Dr al-Huss and Husayn al-Husayni were prevented from meeting him for lunch during the Tunis talks. It is also necessary to remind Dr al-Huss that preventing the Muslim ministers from participating in the government was clearly a Syrian decision and a frank message that, in Syria's view, dialogue among the Lebanese parties is not permitted and is a red line that must not be crossed.

The source added: Since the government was formed, the prime minister has not stopped calling for a dialogue among the Lebanese by calling on the Muslim ministers to join the government, by addressing open messages to the Lebanese partners, and by conducting direct and indirect contacts. All this, however, resulted only in a division of the government, the Chamber of Deputies, and the institutions. Despite this and despite all Arab and international mediation and initiatives, which have been made repeatedly since the government was formed, no Lebanese voice dared to respond to the calls for inter-Lebanese dialogue. Dr al-Huss' feeble excuses and erroneous assumptions to evade adopting a serious and responsible stand on the call for dialogue merely indicate compliance with the still existing Syrian interdiction which is known to everyone both inside and outside Lebanon, particularly our people in the occupied areas. At any rate, whatever Dr al-Huss' considerations and justifications, we again call on him, and not challenge him [as heard], to take a bold step in this direction. We affirm to him our determination to assist him in liberating his will and liberating the popular Lebanese will from every occupation, repression, and coercion. When the issue is one of liberating a homeland and a will, all sacrifices are cheap, and only courageous stands endure.

EC Mission To Assess Population Needs Arrives

LD2508083289 Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] The EC mission, which is responsible for assessing the needs of the Lebanese population, has arrived in Lebanon. It disembarked in the Christian port of Juniyah, north of Beirut, depsite the sea blockade imposed by the Syian Army and its allies. The delegation is led by Rene Ala, the French ambassador in Lebanon.

'Awn, EC Team Discuss Aid

NC2508101989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] An EC mission met with General Michel 'Awn and Ministers Ma'luf and Abu-Jamrah today. French Ambassador Rene Ala pointed out after the meeting that the European team is on a specific mission from the EC. He said assistance will start arriving immediately upon completion of the team's report. He noted that during its 3-day mission the team will meet with the various officials to determine the technical aspects of the assistance program.

Fighting Erupts in Beirut Areas 25 Aug

NC2508063189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Clashes resumed along the various combat lines in the capital, southern Suburb, and Mountain areas last night. Clashes also raged on the fronts of al-Dawwar, Dahr al-Wahsh, Suq al-Gharb, Kafr Shima, and al-Hadath. Machineguns, artillery, and rockets were used in the fighting. At 0610 today, the northern al-Matn coast, al-Ashrafiyah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah were shelled when fighting intensified along the southern Suburb combat line. At around 0745 fighting involving artillery and rockets flared up on the old Sidon road combat lines. Furthermore, artillery heavily bombarded the Kasrawan coast between 0210 and 0400 today. The Lebanese Army retaliated to silence the Syrian fire in al-Nahdah playground.

Syrians Shell 2 Ships 24 Aug

NC2508085389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] AFP has reported that the Syrian Army and its allies last night fired rounds at two ships which were approaching the Christian ports and that the Lebanese Army responded by bombarding the Syrian artillery emplacements.

Position on Lebanon Coordinated With Libya

JN2508081589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 23 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Damascus—Informed Arab sources have said that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam's visit to the Libyan capital, Tripoli, was very important. The sources told AL-ITTIHAD that Khaddam conveyed a detailed message on the Lebanese situation from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The sources said that unifying the Syrian and Libyan viewpoints on the Lebanese situation is a necessity for the Syrian policy, especially since some of Syria's allies—such as Walid Junblatt and Ahmad Jibril—have launched an attack against Libya.

According to the same sources, Khaddam also discussed during his visit coordinating Libyan-Syrian efforts regarding the French military intervention in Lebanon.

Paper on Importance of Arab Cooperation With Iran

JN2408071589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Constants and the Pan-Arab Vision", AL-THAWRAH says: It is nothing new to say that the Syrian Arab relations with any country, organization, or official party in the world are governed by the stance of this country, organization, or party toward the Arab-Israeli conflict. Hence came Syria's pan-Arab vision toward the Iranian revolution, which announced its backing of the Arab struggle after an era of emperor dictatorship. Time has proved that the revolution's inclinations and practices support the Arab struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories, foremost of which is Jerusalem. This is why the hostile forces and the symbols linked to colonialism and Zionism launched a relentless war against this revolution, with the Iraqi regime recruiting itself in this war on behalf of those who were harmed by this revolution. The aim was to deviate the revolution's leaders from their declared principles and neutralize them toward the Arab-Zionist conflict; the aim was also to dissipate Iraq's capabilities and remove it from the pan-Arab battle in Palestine.

The paper adds: Iran continued its principled stands of supporting the struggle of the Arabs. It is supporting them in their fateful battle. For this and other reasons, boosting the relations of cooperation with the Iranian revolution serves the goals of the Arab nation and provides new elements that would uphold Arab struggle against Zionism and colonialism.

Papers on Arab Efforts, French Moves in Lebanon

JN2308082089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria Supports all Arab Efforts To Implement the Casablanca Summit Resolutions," TISHRIN says: Syria supports the tripartite Arab committee's efforts and the implementation of the summit resolutions to achieve a political solution to the Lebanese crisis, and to stop the serious military escalation by 'Awn's divisionist clique, backed by the Iraqi regime, and the implementation of the Zionist scheme against Lebanon and the Arab land.

TISHRIN adds: The Lebanese nationalist and Islamic forces, which believe a solution to Lebanon that guarantees its Arabism and unity can only be achieved through the implementation of the Casablanca summit resolutions, will not hesitate to resist the conspiracy against Lebanon and its pan-Arab existence and destiny. Concluding, TISHRIN says: Just as these forces were able to foil the 17 May agreement and to expel the Marines, they can, backed by Syria and through their escalating and continuous struggle, entrench the pillars and bases of a solution to the Lebanese crisis on a national and pan-Arab basis that maintains Lebanon's Arabism and unity and ends forever the Israeli state of affairs on its territory.

Under the headline "What Is Taking Place in Lebanon Is Preparation for a More Serious Scheme," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: After France and some other forces, including Saddam's regime and all those who are involved in the conspiracy, felt that there is a danger threatening 'Awn, particularly after his cards were exposed, these hostile forces began to launch an unjust campaign against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces. They did not stop at this point, but, through precise arrangement, France dispatched its warships to the Lebanese coasts, thus challenging all the Arabs and all international laws and norms, and consequently exposing the region to a situation whose results will be very difficult to predict should there be any mistake in the calculations of these hostile forces. Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Anyone following the chapters of the game—the conspiracy that is aimed against Lebanon and the Arab nation—will realize that there is a scheme that is almost ready to be implemented. Its implementation cannot take place except through weakening Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces. This is why Lebanon was chosen for this purpose. What has taken place and what will take place is a preparation for this scheme which is aimed at terminating the intifadah [uprising] and the Palestinian people's cause.

Under the headline "For He Who Wants To Learn," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: It seems that some hot-headed individuals yearn for restoring the colonialist roles of some forces that enjoy the protection of the superpowers. This is why they are dispatching their war fleets to the Lebanese coasts to fulfill these dreams in a new desperate attempt to return the region to the mandate era and to restore the positions that fell as a result of the struggle for liberation by the Arab people who—through the violence of successive revolutions that destroyed the fortresses of colonialism, which tried to

take root in the region through the ill-omened Sykes-Picot agreement—forced the traditional European colonialism to leave the region. Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The attempt to return to the region through this window and in such way no longer has any chance of success and is impossible to accept, notwithstanding the method with which it will be confronted and the known repercussions of these methods. There are lessons to be learned from past experiences, but only for he who wants to learn.

Commentary on 'Colonialist' Moves in Lebanon

JN2308175189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Those who imagine that by escalating their shelling and wreaking destruction on Lebanon they can bring pressure to bear on Syria to curtail its support for the Lebanese nationalist forces, are mistaken. They are trying to overcome well-established facts that were entrenched by the Lebanese nationalist forces' struggle with Syria's active support. The most important of these facts are:

1. Lebanon's unity and Arabism cannot be conceded and nobody should ever be allowed to tamper with them.
2. A solution to the Lebanese problem is the prerogative of the warring Lebanese parties. National reconciliation must be reached because it is the safe path to an end to the Lebanese crisis.
3. The continuing Israeli presence in Lebanon is a threat to both Lebanon and the Arab nation. To end this presence and terminate the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon is a Lebanese and pan-Arab national requirement.
4. The establishment of a democratic system in Lebanon under which all Lebanese citizens are equal before the law in terms of their rights and duties and in which no citizen will be distinguished from another except by what he gives on behalf of the homeland will surely place Lebanon on the road to reconciliation and deliverance.

It has been obvious that the Zionist plot against Lebanon—a plot in which the fascist Saddam regime and the Zionist-oriented 'Awn clique are the tools—aims to undermine and destroy these principles. The goal of the plot is obvious to all Arabs; namely, attacking and liquidating the nationalist forces, destroying the nationalist areas, and providing the Zionist enemy with the suitable opportunity to wipe out the intifadah [uprising] and liquidate the Palestinian cause.

Thus, the real aims of the colonialist forces have been exposed. These forces have given the Iraqi regime the role of replacing Israel as the supporter of the groups that cooperate with Israel to realize these aims.

Syria, which supported and continues to support all Lebanese nationalists regardless of their political, social, or geographic affiliations—nationalists who believe in Lebanon's Arabism and the unity of its territory and people—will continue its fraternal and pan-Arab role and will take all the measures necessary to ensure this unity because of pan-Arab considerations and in order to foil the Zionist colonialist conspiracy which is directed against Lebanon and the Arab nation, causes, and struggle.

The Lebanese nationalist forces, who were able—thanks to Syria's effective assistance and support—to abort the 17 May agreement, compel the NATO forces to withdraw, and defeat the Zionist invaders and expell them from most of Lebanese territory, are capable of continuing their undaunted, stubborn struggle to foil the new plot, defeat its tools, end the Israeli phenomenon represented by 'Awn and his divisionist gang, and liberate the south from the Zionist occupation. This is because realizing these aims, which are at the same time nationalist Lebanese and pan-Arab, is an affirmation of the factors and pillars of a solution for the Lebanese crisis, an embodiment of the Arab nation's will, and an enhancement of its struggle against the threats that are overwhelming it. It is also an affirmation of the fact that an Arab solution based on the Casablanca summit resolutions is the only feasible solution because it ensures Lebanon's unity and Arabism. The current colonialist moves against Lebanon, in the wake of the suspect roles of Saddam's fascist regime and the Zionist-oriented 'Awn's gang, are only a cover for a serious Zionist plot that should not be allowed to succeed. Certainly, this plot will never succeed but will meet the same infamous fate as the May agreement. It will surely be defeated. The plotters will only reap failure and frustration because the will of the Lebanese nationalist forces is stronger. This will embodies the ambitions of the vast majority of the Lebanese people, voices the supreme pan-Arab interests, and works for their triumph.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Leader Rejects Najibullah Peace Offer

BK2408154389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1537 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 24 (AFP)—An important Afghan rebel leader Thursday rejected President Najibullah's latest peace proposal and said an Islamic government was the only solution to the country's problems.

Mawlawi Yunis Khalis, chief of one of the Hezb-e Eslami factions, told reporters here: "Our jihad (holy war) is for an Islamic government and we will be satisfied only after its establishment."

On Saturday, Mr. Najibullah called for a six-month truce and proposed U.N.-sponsored elections to end an 11-year civil war in his country. The president repeated a Soviet proposal for an international conference comprising Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, China and India under the auspices of the Soviet Union and the United States. The mujahidin, supported mainly by the United States and Pakistan, have rejected earlier cease-fire offers.

Mr. Khalis, who is interior minister in the mujahidin interim government based here, complained of a shortage of weapons. He also said "one of the main hurdles" for a rebel victory was that countries "supporting our jihad" have not recognized the interim government, formed six months ago in Pakistan.

1,000 Kabul Troops Defect to Rebels in 2 Months

BK2508083789 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that about 1,000 Kabul regime troops have defected to the mujahidin in Badghis Province during the last 2 months. Those who defected include a commander, who joined the mujahidin along with more than 500 troops. The mujahidin also shot down a Kabul regime aircraft and helicopter gunship in (Adh Khamri) area of the province.

Mujahidin Commanders Deny Using 'Cluster Bomb'

BK2408155789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1540 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 24 (AFP)—Resistance field commanders Thursday denied Kabul's claims that they were using a new "cluster bomb" in their attacks on the Afghan capital. The commanders accused government forces of "using civilians as a protective wall," according to MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan], the newly established news agency of the mujahidin interim government based in Pakistan.

They said the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah was "leveling these false charges only to justify using deadly weapons against guerrillas and the innocent people of Afghanistan." Government troops were using bombers, Scud missiles carrying more than 700 kilograms of explosives each, cluster bombs and chemical weapons against the mujahidin, women and children, the rebel commanders charged. "We are taking every possible care to avoid civilian population and that's why the regime's life has been prolonged," they said.

(On Monday in Kabul, the Afghan authorities showed journalists two three-meter-long (10-foot) rockets which they said were captured by Afghan forces near the capital.

(Residents were quoted as saying the rockets exploded in mid-air and scattered small mines which exploded when touched, sending out scores of small flechettes.)

Mujahidin Blow Up Oil Pipeline, Attack Airport

BK2508022289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] According to reports received the mujahidin have blown up an oil pipeline in Afghanistan which supplied oil to the Kabul regime from the Soviet Union. The mujahidin have also occupied three more security posts in Badakhshan Province. The mujahidin carried out a successful attack on the (Darawaz) airport near the Soviet border and destroyed 7 military gunships.

Kabul Radio on Battle Situation 22 Aug

LD2308193989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] As a result of search mopping up and operations which were carried out in the east of Sorkh Dewal, several extremist groups' strongholds, supported by Pakistan, fell to the Armed Forces [words indistinct]. A large number of various infantry weapons and enemy ammunition were seized.

A competent Armed Forces' source reported to the Armed Forces' military section that the joint enemy forces, assisted by heavy weapons fire from Pakistan Army Corps XI, fired yesterday on the subunits, positioned on the frontline, and in residential regions outside Jalalabad city, as a result of which four Armed Forces personnel were injured.

The units and subunits stationed in Nangarhar Province [words indistinct] fired on the concentration points and firing positions of the enemy as a result of which 28 of the enemy were killed and other 34 men were injured. A number of ringleaders and a number of Pakistani militarists and armed Saudi Wahhabi mercenaries, are among those killed. Two BM-1's, one missile unit, four DShK's, three mortars, four rocket launchers, and two vehicles carrying the enemy's weapons and ammunition, were destroyed.

The source added that Pakistani-backed armed extremists fired heavy weapons yesterday at the surroundings of Khowst Major District, injuring three persons. As a

result of retaliatory blows by the Armed Forces, 18 enemies were killed and another 26 injured; and two artillery batteries were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of heavy weapons fire by the Pakistani-backed extremists, in some regions of Qandahar Province, one person was killed and another two were injured. As a result of retaliatory action by the Armed Forces, 17 enemy soldiers, including 3 ringleaders from Golbuddin's group, were killed and a number were injured. Fifteen boxes of ammunition for light weapons, 153 antivehicle mines and 50 mortar mines were seized by the Armed Forces.

Pakistan-Backed Forces Repelled in 23 Aug Battles

LD2408210589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Search and mopping up operations carried out in the surroundings of (Chaphar) District, Nangarhar Province, resulted in 65 mortar shells, 3 boxes of DSHK ammunition, 38 rockets, and various weapons and ammunition belonging to the Pakistani-backed extremists being seized.

A competent source of the Armed Forces reported to the military section of the BIA that the joint enemy forces, with the assistance of artillery fire by Pakistan Army Corps XI, yesterday carried out heavy-weapon firing at the subunits on the frontline and residential regions outside the city of Jalalabad. The units and subunits stationed in the area heroically repulsed the enemy attack, crushing 22 enemy men and injuring another 36. Several ringleaders, a number of Pakistani militarists, and armed Wahhabi Saudi mercenaries were among those killed or injured. The source added that three recoilless guns, four mortars, eight rocket launchers, and two vehicles carrying enemy weapons and ammunition were also destroyed.

According to another report the Pakistani-backed armed extremists yesterday carried out heavy-weapons firing at some regions of Khowst Major District, as a result of which three personnel of the Armed Forces were martyred and another five persons were injured. The brave units and subunits of the Armed Forces stationed in Khowst yesterday foiled an attack by the extremist groups and inflicted crushing blows on the warmongers.

Fighting Among Rebel Groups Reported

LD2408212589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] During the past 4 days more than 300 persons belonging to the extremist groups of the criminals Golbuddin and Rabbani have been killed as a result of armed clashes.

The BIA military section reports from Badakhshan Province that in the course of these clashes, which emanate from internal disagreement among the aforementioned groups and which reached a climax when members of the Rabbani group killed 15 commanders of the Golbuddin group, including Mawlawi Nematullah, Mullah Ajab Mohammad, Mullah Sarwar, Mullah Akbar, Mullah Khayruddin, Mir Ahmad Shah, Payenda Khan, Amanuddin, Malang, 'Abdul Wasay, and Gol Mohammad after cutting their hands, legs, and necks. They also shot dead more than 100 of their men.

The members of the murder Golbuddin groups resorted to a retaliatory attack as a result of which they shot dead 200 members of the criminal Rabbani group. The armed clashes between the two rival groups have reached a climax and are still continuing in most of the provinces of the country.

Bloody clashes took place recently among the extremists groups in some areas of the districts of Anar Dara, Golestan, and Qal-e Kah, Farah Province.

The BIA military section reports that as a result of these armed clashes which arise from internal disagreement among them and over the distribution of goods stolen from people, 52 persons were killed, including Kasem, Ghafar, and Baz Mohammad, three of their ringleaders. Another 21 were injured. Also an arms and ammunition depot was burned down. These clashes are continuing.

Presidential Decrees Promote Officers

LD2408180489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] In separate decrees issued on the occasion of Air and Air Defense Forces' Day in the Republic of Afghanistan, Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah approved the promotion of the following officers:

From brigadier general to major general:
'Abdul Wakil, son of (Nesrullah);

From colonel to brigadier general:
(Jalaluddin), son of 'Abdul Rahim;
Rahmatullah, son of 'Abdallah;
(Muhammad Naem), son of 'Abdul Qayum;
'Abdul Wahab, some of Muhammad Shah.

Hekmatyar Accuses West of 'Sending Spies'

BK2408153889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1529 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 24 (AFP)—Golbuddin Hekmatyar, head of the fundamentalist Afghan resistance faction Hezb-e Eslami, has accused unnamed Western countries of sending spies into Afghanistan posing as aid workers or journalists to stir up ethnic tensions. In a message distributed by his representative and received here Thursday [24 August] Mr. Hekmatyar, who is in Afghanistan, instructed his commanders on the Pakistan-Afghan border "to prevent these Western spies from entering into Afghanistan".

The mujahidin leader said "some Western countries, in the disguise of doctors and journalists, have been

sending spies to Afghanistan who are busy in fanning lingual and ethnic prejudices".

Mr. Hekmatyar, foreign affairs minister in the Afghan guerrillas' provisional government, appealed to the Western countries, which he did not identify, not to "commit a mistake the Russians had committed".

"Don't try to succeed them," he added in a reference to the 10-year Soviet presence in Afghanistan which ended last February, or "(you) would be responsible for a strong reaction from the Afghan mujahidin".

Mr. Hekmatyar is a highly controversial figure in the Afghan resistance because of his extreme anti-Western stance. In this case, his expressions were almost identical to those used in the past by the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul to refer to aid organisations and journalists attempting to work in Afghanistan, diplomatic sources in Islamabad said.

Mr. Hekmatyar made these accusations just one week after two young Frenchmen working for the humanitarian organisation Handicap International were caught in a government ambush in the southwestern Province of Helmand. One of the men, Vincent Gernigon, was killed and the other, Henri-Xavier Lemire, is being detained in Kabul. At the time of the ambush, the two men were travelling with mujahidin fighters from the Jamiyat-e Eslami faction, which is a rival of Mr. Hekmatyar's group.

U.S.-Made Missiles, Ammunition Discovered

LD2408180189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] In carrying out a mopping up operation the organs of the Ministry of State Security have discovered today a number of U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles, mines, and ammunition for various weapons in the surroundings of Sorobi district.

BIA's military section reported that on the basis of state terrorism by the United States and Pakistan, their agents deployed 9 U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles, 7 mortar mines and rocket launchers, 13 anti-vehicle and antipersonnel mines, for launching at residential regions and shedding our Muslim people's blood. However this evil conspiracy of the sold-out extremists was discovered with the cooperation of the local people and thus the occurrance of a tragic mishap was prevented.

Commentator Condemns New U.S. Missiles

LD2408181689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Recently the United States has put at the disposal of the professional murderers a new type of missiles which, when it explodes spreads dozens of deadly and killer antipersonnel mines. A radio and television political commentator writes the following in this regard:

The blind fire of U.S. missiles by the extremists on the residential areas of the populated city of Kabul and on innocent civilians, which takes places with the direct support of the U.S. Government, is an obvious and flagrant interference by that country in our country's internal affairs. At present the U.S. Government has trampled openly on all the international norms and standards and is engaged clearly in state terrorism.

The United States as the guarantor of the Geneva accords which should have observed its commitments in connection with ensuring of peace and tranquility, has changed openly into a principle side of conflict itself. This is the U.S. Government which has given an opportunity to the extremists for another bloody test, and flagrantly announces that during certain months it should put more weapons at the extremists' disposal and that they should be given a chance to achieve victory through military pressure.

This the U.S. Government which has given new missiles to the extremists and continues killing and slaughtering greater numbers of our innocent civilian compatriots, such as women, children, and elderly people.

We remember those days when the United States and Pakistani military men launched a deafening hue and cry and on the pretext that mine fields in various parts of Afghanistan were preventing the return of our immigrant compatriots to their homeland, and they still prevent this process.

However, when today in the bright daylight they themselves, by firing their new type of missiles, spread mines in the areas inhabitated by civilians, what is their answer to the world public opinion? Without doubt no answer.

Today world public opinion including U.S. public opinion and even a large number of U.S. congressmen, strongly condemn that country's aggressive policy in connection with the issue of Afghanistan and consider it to be flagrant state terrorism. [words indistinct] The public opinion of our country and of the world has come to the conclusion that the only solution to the problem of Afghanistan is not the continuation of military pressure and confrontation, but talks and political dialogue.

Also the world and our country's public opinion believe that if the United States tries to put into military test dozens more time the extremists groups supported by it against the Armed Forces of the State of the Republic of Afghanistan, it will gain nothing but defeat and shame.

More on Arrest of Spaniard for Illegal Entry

LD2308193389 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1130 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The Afghan Government confirmed that the young Spanish writer being held in Kabul was arrested by Afghan Army Forces on 1 August in Qandahar Province, in the southern part of the country. Afghan Foreign Minister Muhammad Nabi [title as heard] said

that Spaniard Jorge Juan Sanchez Garcia has admitted to entering Afghanistan illegally—the term used by the Afghan Government to describe those cases in which an individual enters its country with rebel groups opposed to the pro-Soviet government. Jorge Juan Sanchez also told the Afghan authorities that he went to Afghanistan only to write a book on the country.

Agricultural Aid From Soviet Union Planned

LD2408194989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 23, BAKHTAR—Mohammed Ghofran, minister of agriculture and land reforms of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) met on August 22 in his office with Koprovich, economic councellor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. During the meeting matters relating to the immediate transfer and delivery of 69,000 tonnes of chemical fertilisers and 10,000 tonnes of improved sowing seeds, to the Afghan side were discussed.

A source of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms said to a BAKHTAR reporter that an agreement on the Soviet gratis aids including the said one was concluded between the two sides, earlier.

The economic councellor of the Soviet Embassy promised the provision of another [word indistinct] 28,000 tonnes of fertilisers to the Afghan side as well.

Syria's Al-Asad Congratulates Najibullah

LD2508084789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 24, BAKHTAR—Hafiz Al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, has sent a congratulatory message addressed to Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the regaining of independence of Afghanistan to Kabul.

Besides congratulating the occasion, the message of President Al-Asad has again assured the Afghan leadership on the Syrian Arab Republic principalled stand vis-a-vis the Republic of Afghanistan and restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Najibullah Congratulates Romania's Ceausescu

LD2408181789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 23 BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) has sent a contratulatory message addressed to Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania on 45th independence anniversary of that country to Bucharest on August 22, 1989.

While expressing best felicitation on the occasion, the message states that the existed friendly relations between the two countries will be further expand and consolidate in the interests of people's of the RA and Romania.

Najibullah Interviewed by CNN, SFRY Weekly

LD2408214289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 23, BAKHTAR—Najibullah president of the Republic of Afghanistan today received Miroslav Lazanski, military-political commentator of weekly DANAS of Yugoslavia for an interview in Gol Khanah presidential palace. President Najibullah during the interview spoke on military-political situation in Afghanistan and the effectiveness of the 9th sessions of the heads of states or governments of the Non-Aligned Movement. President has also replied to the questions raised by the journalist.

According to another report President Najibullah, also received late in the day the U.S. C.N.N. television team for an interview in the Gol Khanah presidential palace and answered its questions.

Opium Confiscated in Herat Province 23 Aug

LD2308205389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The anti-crime personnel of Sarandoy Command, Herat Province, have discovered and seized 500 kg of opium today. The correspondent of the BAKHTAR military section reported from Herat Province that the individual responsible for the opium seized was also arrested. The case is now under investigation.

India

Rao's Nepal Trip Seen as Effort To Heal Ties

BK2408142489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1358 GMT 24 Aug 89

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 24 (AFP)—Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao sets out for Nepal Friday [25 August to try to thaw relations frozen by a five-month-old dispute over trade and transit. Mr. Rao will spend two days in Kathmandu for talks with his Nepalese counterpart, Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, on the entire range of issues straining relations, Indian sources said.

India expects a serious dialogue on several contentious issues, including the dispute over trade and transit that flared on March 23 when treaties governing them expired, a senior government source said.

The talks are expected to prepare the ground for a summit meeting in September between Prime Minister

Rajiv Gandhi and King Birendra of Nepal when both travel to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, for a conference of the Non-Aligned Movement.

"We are expecting this to be an ice-breaking trip," said the source who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We hope this will be the beginning of a comprehensive dialogue that will help determine the parameters of our whole relationship."

For the agenda, India has suggested a review of bilateral relations, governed by a 1950 treaty that committed the two countries to "eternal peace and friendship," as well as exchanges on trade, transit and security. "We will not talk only about trade and transit," the source said, reaffirming India's stand that they were peripheral issues. Nepal believes trade and transit are central to a dialogue, the source said. "That is like putting the cart before the horse," the source said. "We have to know what kind of relationship it will be before making decisions about a future trade and transit regime."

Observers here said the expiry of the trade and transit pacts only brought into the open a rift that had been brewing much longer. After their expiry, New Delhi insisted on a return to the pre-1978 position of a unified agreement, saying the two issues were linked.

Nepal, enclosed on three sides by India with which it has an open border of 1,700 kilometres (1,062 miles), says the issues are separate. Kathmandu believes trade is a periodic bilateral arrangement and transit a necessary condition for the international trade of any landlocked country. India then closed 13 out of 15 transit points and suspended an array of trade concessions and subsidies in what Kathmandu called an economic blockade.

Officials here said India wanted to make trade and transit facilities conditional on cooperation to combat smugglers, who have over the years diversified from polyster yarn and consumer electronics to gold and drugs.

Nepal hit back with an "irrevocable" tariff schedule that put Indian imports on a par with goods from third countries, swept away additional taxes on exports from other sources and slapped extra duties on Indian products.

Indian moves led to shortages of vital supplies such as petroleum and coal and caused a virtual collapse of Nepal's industry and trade. They revived charges that India was behaving like an arrogant bully out to squeeze small neighbours.

Relations between the two Hindu-majority nations have deteriorated steadily over the past two years. Nepal's mid-1988 purchase of arms from China, introduction of work permits for an estimated 150,000 Indians living in the kingdom and levy of additional duties on Indian products annoyed New Delhi. India, where six million Nepalese live, said the moves violated the spirit of the 1950 friendship treaty, which promised reciprocal freedom of trade and job opportunities to each other's citizens. "There was also a commitment from the Nepalese side (in the treaty) that there would be at least a passive contribution to shared security perceptions," the Indian source said. "But there has been a conspicuous indifference to our sensitivities," the source added, citing the Nepalese arms purchase from China.

Although the problems appear to be difficult and have been compounded by five months of mutual acrimony, the Indian delegation will be travelling to Kathmandu hoping for positive results towards ironing out the issues, the source added.

(In Kathmandu, a government source said Mr. Rao would meet Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya separately after arriving Friday morning. The visitor would later be received by King Birendra at the royal palace, the source said. Mr. Rao's delegation was expected to arrive on a special aircraft with 35 journalists.

(Chief government spokesman Radhe Shyam Bista told reporters at a weekly news conference that Nepal was willing to discuss agenda items proposed by both sides. "His majesty's government is willing and ready to start meaningful nogotiations straightaway on all issues specified by both Nepal and India in their respective proposals," the spokesman said.)

Soviet Delegation Meets Home Minister Singh

BK2408015489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] A Soviet delegation headed by Deputy Minister for Internal Affairs Mr N.I. Demidov, called on the union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, in New Delhi today. Both sides exchanged views and their experiences. The delegation is familiarizing itself with the constitutional and legal practices in India under which the law and order situation, maintenance, crime and drug control and welfare of minorities are handled.

USSR's Shevchenko Supports Panchayati Raj Bill

BK2408144589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The visiting Soviet vice president, Mrs Valentina Shevchenko, has strongly praised the Panchayati Raj [system of rural local bodies] bill saying that it will benefit the people of India. In an interview with UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA], Mrs Shevchenko said that by devolving power to the villages, the bill seeks to initiate fundamental changes at the grass-roots level. She said she does not think that the bill will infringe on the rights of the states.

Mrs Shevchenko revealed that a similar bill would also be introduced in Soviet parliament in October. She said both the Indian and Soviet bills seek to give power to the people for swifter reforms and economic progress. She

said during her discussions with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, she had found that he is deeply interested in the devolution of power to the villages and the people.

Economic Relations With FRG To Be Expanded

BK2408091289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] India and West Germany have agreed to expand their economic and trade relations by setting up joint ventures and motivating more German firms to invest in India. This was highlighted at the ministerial-level meeting of the Indo-German Commission for Economic Cooperation held in Bonn yesterday. The Indian delegation was led by the finance minister, Mr S.B. Chavan. The meeting noted with satisfaction that India's trade deficit with West Germany decreased from 1,300 crore rupees in 1987 to 890 crore rupees last year. This was possible because of India's strong export performance. Indian exports to West Germany paid for about 62 percent of total imports from that country.

Defense Minister Defends Strengthening of Navy

BK2308130089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has strongly defended India's genuine need for enhancing its maritime defense and the buildup of its navy. He was speaking in Bombay today after commissioning the first indigenously built new guided missile Corvette class INS [Indian Navy ship] Kukri.

Mr Pant justified the exploitation of the sea resources and particularly in the exclusive economic zone spreading over an area of 2 million square kilometers for the prosperity of the country.

The defense minister said some foreign countries are raising the bogey that India is building up its Navy beyond its needs to create an adverse atmosphere. He said we cannot ignore our strength in the seas as weakness can lead to subjugation.

Device To Detect Submarines Developed

BK2308055589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The Cochin-based naval, physical, and oceanographic laboratory, a wing of the Defense Research Development Organization, has developed a device to detect submarines in the sea. The device, when dropped into the sea from an aircraft, receives signals from the submarine and retransmits them to the aircraft through a radio link.

Opposition to Jammu-Kashmir Press Bill Mounts

BK2408110489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0949 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 24 (AFP)—Opposition mounted Thursday [24 August] against controversial legislation empowering the government to censor news in an Indian border state hit by Muslim separatist violence. The influential Editors' Guild of India described the Jammu and Kashmir special powers (press) bill as "an extremely dangerous piece of legislation which deserves to be unequivocally condemned." Journalists in the northern state decided to launch a concerted campaign to scuttle the bill, which needs approval of the Jammu and Kashmir governor to become law, newspapers said. They asked Governor K.V. Krishna Rao to withhold assent.

The Indian Federation of Working Journalists asked the Jammu and Kashmir Government to withdraw the legislation passed by the state legislature Wednesday and urged the federal government to provide constitutional guarantees for press freedom.

The bill was also flayed by the Delhi Union of Journalists, the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference and several opposition parties.

Jammu and Kashmir is India's only Muslim-majority state and a continuing dispute over its ownership has caused two wars between India and Pakistan since their independence in 1947.

The press bill aims to curb the Kashmir press in the wake of escalating Muslim militancy in which more than 50 people have died and hundreds been wounded in the past one year.

Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, who piloted the bill, has lashed out at Kashmir newspapers for ignoring "national interests" and said they would not be allowed to report about Muslim militancy.

The controversial bill, which seeks to "regulate and control printing and publication of certain matters in the interests of public order and security of the state", needs the governor's ascent to become law. The bill exempts newspapers and news agencies based outside the state from its purview.

But opposition to the bill was wide-spread. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, the capital's biggest circulation newspaper, asked the media and the country to treat the Jammu and Kashmir special powers (press) bill "with the contempt it deserves". The English-language daily said there was no rational explanation for the bill, passed by the state assembly despite widespread opposition from media organisations throughout India.

THE TIMES was joined by THE STATESMAN and the PATRIOT newspapers, who in similar editorials blamed Dr. Abdullah, a Muslim and doctor of medicine, for the deteriorating law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir. "Like all weak administrators faced with a difficult situation, Dr. Farooq Abdullah has not been able to suggest anything so far save the hare-brained notion of suppressing all news of violent incidents," THE STATESMAN said. "Wisdom dictates immediate abandonment of the totally ill-advised action," said the PATRIOT.

The bill makes it mandatory for newspapers to submit to the government for scrutiny reports "relating to a particular subject or class of subjects". Violators will be punished with imprisonment for a maximum of one year and a fine of up to 10,000 rupees (606 dollars). It was widely seen as an attempt to gag the press, to prevent Kashmir newspapers from publishing statements and speeches delivered by Muslim groups campaigning for a free Kashmir state.

Past attempts to curb press freedom have failed in India. The state governments of Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Karnataka were forced to drop similar bills following public protests.

Last year, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi contemplated enactment of an anti-defamation bill but was forced to drop it following widespread protests by the press and the opposition. That bill was seen as a measure aimed at gagging press reporting of corruption in the government.

Further Criticism Expressed

BK2408162689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The general secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh [State] Congress-I Committee, Mr Rashid Siddique, has said that the state government should not have hurried in passing the press bill without taking into confidence all political parties and journalists union. Talking to PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in Srinagar, he expressed the hope that the state government will reconsider its decision and withdraw the bill in the larger interest of the state.

The All India Newspaper Editors Conference has appealed to the president and the prime minister to prevail upon the Jammu and Kashmir Government to desist from enacting the bill. The president of the All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation, Mr Harbachan Singh, has also criticized the measure.

The chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has said that the press bill passed by the state assembly is not against the freedom of the press but aims at protecting the larger interests of the people and the security of the state. Addressing a public meeting in a village near Srinagar today, he said the bill provides for restrictions of publication of such material, which encourage terrorism and lawlessness in the state.

A partial bundh [strike] was observed in Srinagar today to protest against the alleged arrests of political activists and the press bill. Shops in some parts of the city were closed. However, traffic was plying normally.

Elections Official Calls Vote 'Massive Task'

BK2408031089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0251 GMT 24 Aug 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 24 (AFP)—Election officials are racing against time to organise the world's largest polls, expected to be the most bitter ever fought in India as Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi runs for his second term in office. With polls due in December, the election commission has started work on the massive task of mobilising men and material. The polls will involve about three million volunteers and thousands of security personnel.

Some 500 million voters—about twice the population of the United States—will elect 543 candidates from among the thousands vying for a seat in Parliament.

More than 200 political parties, ranging from Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) to unknown fringe groups, have sought the commission's permission to contest. Commission Secretary C.L. Rose said in an interview. The parties' candidates will be joined by hundreds of independents—those who belong to no party but who plunge into the election frenzy with equal zeal and against greater odds. "It is a massive operation," Mr. Rose said about the polls due when Mr. Gandhi's five-year term expires in December. "To organise elections in our country is a Herculean task."

On top of the campaign money spent on meetings, posters, handbills, transport and supporters, a parliamentary election in this land of about 850 million people costs the exchequer millions of dollars.

About 550,000 voting centres, or polling booths, are to be set up across the massive Indian land mass, ranging from snow-capped mountains and rocky hills in the north and northeast to plains and deserts. Some booths have to be set up in areas so remote that election officials set out three days in advance to reach their posts at least a day before the polls, while voters—old and young—trek many kilometres to cast their ballots.

Mr. Rose said election officials in India's 25 states and seven federally-administered union territories had already shopped for an array of items, including stamp pads, needles, thread, gunnysacks, earthen pots, sticks, buckets, rope and stationery. Ballot boxes, thousands of which are of the 1952 vintage when India held its first post-independence polls, are tied to sticks and carried on shoulders to remote polling stations, while the gunnysacks and thread are used to store ballot boxes at the end of voting. The earthen pots and buckets will be used to hold water for thirsty election officials and voters.

Mr. Rose said the Election Commission, an autonomous body, had placed orders for nearly 2,500 tonnes of special quality cream-colour paper for printing ballot papers giving candidates' symbols.

In a nation where illiteracy is high and people speak many languages, candidates are given symbols so they can be recognised by voters. Political parties which have polled four or more per cent of votes in at least one state in the past have their own symbols, while other candidates are free to choose one after their nominations have been accepted. The symbols can be anything—ranging from a nail to a plane.

As the poll date draws nearer, the Election Commission has been flooded with applications from more than 200 established and new parties to stand for the elections, Mr. Rose said. Under a new law, political parties have to pledge their faith in the Constitution and in the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy and in the unity and integrity of India.

The major parties already recognised by the Election Commission include Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I), the Janata (People's) Party, the Lok Dal (Masses Party), the Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party (BJP), the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) and the independent Communist Party of India (Marxist). The unknowns include the Green Party of India, the Humanist Party of India, Bharatiya Jai Jawan Jai Kisan Party (Indian Hail Soldier Hail Farmer Party), All India Garib (Poor) Congress, Scientific Vedic (Scriptures) Revolutionary Party, and the Congress for Capitalist Oriented and other Nehru Policies.

Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Gandhi's grandfather, was India's first premier.

The gigantic task of elections is never a peaceful affair in India and has resulted in dozens of the deaths in the past. Besides group clashes and brazen threats to election officials, thugs in some states are known to "capture" voting booths and stamp hundreds of ballots in favour of their candidates, sometimes with official connivance. In such "sensitive constituencies," Mr. Rose said the commission will introduce electronic voting machines which have a button that the presiding officer can press to put it out of action.

The opposition is making one of their most determined attempts to come to power, seeking to unite behind corruption scandals that have dogged Mr. Gandhi in the past two years. Opinion polls have said the Congress (I) will have trouble if the unity efforts pay off. Pre-election political rhetoric has indicated that the polls will be the most bitter ever contested in India, but the outcome is uncertain as the opposition searches for elusive unity.

Iran

Musavi-Ardabili Urges Majlis To Endorse Cabinet

LD2508100389 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 25, IRNA—Former Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdol Karim Musavi-Ardabili made a strong plea Friday urging the Majlis to endorse the President's cabinet members. Ardabili warned if deputies allowed political factionalism to influence their vote in Sunday's "fateful" debate on the Cabinet they would not longer enjoy the support of people they represent.

"The Majlis is very respectable and dear... and the freedom of its deputies should be protected," he stressed in his Friday payers sermon in Tehran. But my brotherly advice to the dear deputies is that... they should not, God forbid, be overcome by... factionalism and political lineups because in this case they would get less respect..."

The ayatollah's call on the Majlis was by far the strongest to date. Leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i also urged the Majlis on Wednesday to endorse the Cabinet so that no ministry would be left without a head in the present "crucial" circumstances.

The press Thursday echoed Khamene'i's call and one paper quoted a Majlis deputy that most members agreed that the ministers should be cleared in a show of unity.

Ardabili said the deputies should consider nothing but the professional competence of the 22 ministers introduced by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He said the president and his proposed Cabinet members were all well-known to the people. "The people will support you (deputies) but they also have hope in you. If you step outside a principle just a little bit, you will not longer have the people's support at least... in their heart and soul."

Twenty deputies will speak for or against the minister in the Cabinet debate lasting a maximum of three days starting Sunday. Each minister would be voted on separately with a secret ballot. "Next week is a fateful week, it is a week to vote for the government," the former chief justice said.

Meanwhile Ardabili announced that he had decided to start teaching in the Qom theological center, leaving ten years of service in the highest state bodies behind him. "Some people told me not to do it because then I would be detached from the state... but isn't the Qom theological center part of the state?"

"It is the foundation and the apex of the state," he said.

Ardabili said any rumours about why he had made this decision were "baseless and lies" and he would return to state service if necessary.

A daily had predicted earlier that the ayatollah would be appointed as a member of the Council of Guardians to fill in for Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi who was selected as the chief of the judiciary.

Besharati Says Assets, Hostages Not Linked

BK2308115289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1124 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 23 (AFP)—Iranian Vice Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati on Wednesday firmly ruled out any link between Washington's freeze on Iranian assets in the United States and the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

"Whether the hostages are released or not, the United States must de-block Iranian assets," Mr. Besharati told reporters shortly before he flew on to North Korea and after meeting with Indonesian President Suharto. The

issue of Iranian assets in the United States was totally unrelated to the issue of hostages held by Islamic groups in the Lebanon, he added.

M. Besharati said at a press conference on Tuesday that Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani had told Washington he was prepared to help in the hostage issue but that "they should ask us politely what to do" and not address Teheran with "musts" or "should be's".

"Washington should have a friendlier attitude", he said, adding that U.S. President George Bush "has so far acted more wisely than his predecessors."

Mr. Besharati, who accused France of interfering in the internal affairs of Lebanon by sending warships off its coast, said Wednesday that Tehran had called on the warring groups in Lebanan not to resort to hostage-taking anymore and to free the hostages on "humanitarian" grounds.

He said Mr. Bush was more moderate than the man he replaced, Ronald Reagan, and added that "we do not want hostile ties with the United States."

Mr. Besharati also stressed Tehran's need for assistance "to launch our new programme of national reconstruction."

The deputy foreign minister, accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, arrived here Monday to discuss next month's summit of the Non-aligned Movement in Belgrade, which Mr. Suharto is due to attend. He also met officials, including Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, for talks on on ways to improve bilateral trade relations. Trade between the two countries stood at one billion dollars last year with Indonesia's imports including 65,000 barrels of heavy crude oil per day. Indonesia produces mainly light crude and imports heavy crude for use in asphalts and tarmac.

Velayati Sends Message to UN on French Ships

LD2408193489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] In a letter addressed to the UN secretary general, the foreign affairs minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran has strongly condemned the dispatch of French military navy to the territorial waters of Lebanon. He asked the UN secretary general to take immediate measures to ensure that the French military navy is moved away from the territorial waters of that country.

The text of the letter of Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs, to Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, is as follows:

Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, honorable secretary general of the United Nations Organization:

Excellency, the Secretary General, with regard to the United Nations' efforts sustained for peaceful solution to international and regional hostilities and crises, especially Your Excellency's personal attention and inclination toward the solution of the crisis in Lebanon as well as the 14-year old civil war in that country, I would like to inform you that the dispatch of a military naval convoy by France, consisting of the aircraft carrier "Foche" and seven other military naval craft, to the territorial waters of Lebanon, in east Mediterranean, constitutes a provocative military show of force in the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Not only will such an act not help toward achievement of peace and security, but it is a new and dangerous move that will cause an escalation of the fire of war in Lebanon and increasing instability and insecurity in the region. With regard to the injustices and repeated aggressions against the oppressed people, especially the victimized Muslims of Lebanon, such a move may further complicate the situation in that country. The unhappy consequences of such move will, definitely, will be the responsibility of the said interfering and aggressionist powers.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the world of Islam as a whole condemn any military and military action by a foreign navy against Lebanon under any pretext; they demand that the independence, sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Lebanon be respected, especially by one of the permanent members of the Security Council.

Excellency, Secretary General, the Islamic Republic of Iran expects immediate and decisive action by Your Excellency to prevent the said military interference and to move away the military navy of France from the territorial waters of Lebanon, and not to spare any humanitarian efforts to protect the just rights of the victimized people of Lebanon, especially the Muslim majority in that country, and to (make it mandatory) observe the respect for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

[Signed] 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

French Ships' Arrival 'Provocative'

LD2408170789 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—Arrival of the French military fleet in Lebanon's territorial waters is a "provocative and intervening power showdown," Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said today.

In a letter to the U.N. secretary general Velayati called on Javier Perez de Cuellar to personally take urgent and decisive measures to prevent this military interference, and keep away the French fleet from Lebanese territorial waters. He expressed hope that the U.N. chief would not spare any humanitarian efforts to defend the indisputable rights of the oppressed Lebanese people.

Velayati stressed that the despatch of the French fleet to Lebanon will not help restoration of peace and security,

but only serves to further fuel the war flames in Lebanon, and consequently, create more unrest and instability in the region.

Elaborating on Iran's stands in this regard Velayati said the Islamic Republic and the whole Muslim world condemn military intervention of a foreign fleet in Lebanon under any pretext. He also called for respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Lebanon especially by "a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council."

Commentary on Israeli 'Aggression' in Lebanon

LD2408204989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1052 GMT 24 Aug 89

["First" political commentary" entitled: "The Extension of Israel's Aggressions in South Lebanon"]

[Text] The Zionist regime has once again resumed strengthening is force in parts of the south of Lebanon. Recently, 100 Israeli troops crossed the borders of Lebanon and stationed themselves in the central and eastern zones of the security belt. A number of these troops—with 20 military trucks and with guns having a range of of three kilometers—will embark on military operations outside the region in which they are stationed, and another group of these forces along with their military equipment will help maintain security over the command headquarters of Israeli forces in the central zone. These military deployments and reallocations are following extensive clashes which have been raging over these regions since Monday—when units from Hizballah resistance forces have been involved in hit and run tactics with forces of the Zionist regime. No casualties have been reported in these clashes. However, Israeli soldiers, by firing on some of the villages of south Lebanon, have inflicted much material damage on the inhabitants of these regions. In the course of the past 3 weeks when the Zionist regime increased the volume of its aggressions in south Lebanon, these kinds of crimes have continued relentlessly.

The chief aim of the Zionist regime is to apply pressure on the Hizballah movement and continue its political blackmail in Lebanon. Ten years ago when Israel began its aggresions against Lebanon, Hizballah forces were the largest groups [as heard] who stood crushingly steadfast in the face of the transgressions of the Zionist regime in Lebanon.

Following the Zionist regime's kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd, the Friday imam of Jibshit, the clashes between Hizballah and Israel entered a new stage. Even though the apparent intention of Israel in this kidnapping was to apply pressure on Hizballah to exchange Israeli hostages for Shaykh 'Ubayd, the repercussions of Israel's state terrorism in kidnapping Shaykh 'Ubayd, however, also touched on the fate of the Western hostages and escalated once again the crisis of hostagetaking.

The outcome that the Zionists themselves acknowledge was not one that they had bargained for and it placed them at an impasse. This matter continues with Hizballah pressuring Israel to free Shaykh 'Ubayd. According to political commentators, what encourages Israel to increase its military pressure in south Lebanon is the political-military situaton of Lebanon, especially the desperate circumstances of Michel 'Awn in his war with Islamic and national forces of Lebanon. Moreover, Israel hopes to apply pressure on Hizballah in order to break this impasse. Hizballah has threatened to respond strongly to Israel's crime of kidnapping. Sometime ago, the martyr-seeking operations of Hizballah inflicted substantial losses and casualties on the Israeli forces.

The Zionist regime which worries lest these kinds of operations are repeated, is strengthening its forces in south Lebanon with two aims in mind. On the one hand, it intends to strengthen Michel 'Awn's morale and also the position of Maronite politics [Maruniyat-e siyasi] in Lebanon, as well as to prepare the ground for further aggressions of Western countries against Lebanon. On the other, Israel is endeavoring to save itself from the crisis created from the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd by applying pressure on Hizballah.

Bearing in mind the morale of Hizballah—which welcomes clashes with the forces of the Zionist regime—it is unlikely that this stratagem of the Israelis will succeed—at least not as far as Hizballah is concerned.

Karrubi Addresses Envoys on Foreign Policy

LD2408213589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Karrubi, speaker of the Majlis, addressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's envoys to foreign countries, saying: The implementation of the "neither East nor West" policy does not mean confrontation or severance of relations with all other countries.

The Majlis speaker restated the need to safeguard the principles and pure ideals of the revolution, and explained the "neither East nor West" policy of the Islamic revolution. The minister of foreign affairs, deputy foreign ministers, officials, managers, and also ambassadors and the charge d'affaires were present.

He reminded them that rejection of domination, and normal relations and political equality based on international principles are the meaning of the "neither East nor West" policy.

The speaker of the Majlis stressed the need for simplicity and the creation of an Islamic atmosphere in our embassies, and also to have contacts in line with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran in other countries. He added: You, the ambassadors and the messengers of the Islamic revolution, are the propagators of Islam and bearers of the messages which have been expressed by the blood shed by martyrs.

Mr Velayati, the foreign minister, presented a report on the external policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its developments to the speaker of the Majlis.

Judiciary Leader Yazdi Speaks to Envoys

LD2408213789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad, accompanied by Foreign Minister Velayati, deputies to the minister, and other officials of the ministry, today met Mr Yazdi, the head of the judiciary.

Mr Yazdi referred to the wise policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran on international issues, and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will never abandon its principled and general foreign policy. We are always subject to the policy of "Neither East nor West" in its correct sense and interpretation. He added: We have reciprocal humanitarian and sound relations with almost all countries of the world, and we will continue to do so. The "Neither East nor West" policy never indicates severing relations with the outside world.

The head of the judicial branch added: Respect for human rights and the dignity of human beings, irrespective of their convictions, is among the principles of the Koran and Islam. You, as ambassadors and representatives, in your confrontations and meetings with foreign individuals and personalities, must always maintain respect for personalities to the required level.

Mr Yazdi also referred to the vain expectation of the enemies of the Islamic revolution, who expected the unity of the regime to disintegrate after the demise of the imam—may his soul be sanctified. He added: Thank God, after the demise of the imam [word indistinct] no harm was done to the stability and unity of the regime of the Islamic Republic. We hope that in view of the positive view of the leader on the composition of the proposed cabinet, affairs will continue in a like manner.

Foreign Minister Velayati expressed the hope that through cooperation with the judicial power many existing difficulties, especially problems connected with legal affairs of Iranian nationals abroad, can be solved.

Velayati Meets With UN Adviser on Afghanistan

LD2408171989 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 24, IRNA—The U.N. chief's advisor for Afghanistan Benon Sevan held his first round of talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the latest developments in that war-ravaged country, here Thursday afternoon.

Sevan briefed Velayati on the outcome of his contacts with Afghan mujahidin groups fighting the Marxist regime in Kabul. He also hailed Iran's efforts to unite the mujahidin.

He expressed hope that close contacts between Iran, Pakistan and the Soviet Union as well as more intensified efforts by the United Nations could enable the Afghan Muslim people to determine their own fate soon.

The U.N. envoy also announced the organization's readiness to play a more active role in this regard.

Velayati underscored the need for the coming to power in Kabul of an Islamic and non-aligned government free of foreign interventions.

Larijani Interviewed on Gulf, Ties With West

PM2308145089 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Aug 89 pp 2, 10, 12

[Interview with former Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Javad Larijani by unidentified RESALAT correspondents; date, place not given]

[Text] [RESALAT] Regarding to Resolution 598, which has been deadlocked for about a year now, there are several possibilities at hand. One is to rely on the United Nations, especially the Security Council, or to go to the secretary general to ask him to implement the resolution. Or else we could become powerful enough ourselves to kick the enemy out of our country, and at the same time make a move toward implementing the resolution. Which of these paths do you think will gain us results? Is there any other way?

[Larijani] First we have to define our main objectives in this regard. We want Resolution 598 to be implemented fully, and the reason why we want to see it implemented is that we want to see real peace established in the region.

So we do not think of resolution as a game of words. The implementation of Resolution 598 is a way to peace and security in the region. Despite all the faults that the resolution may have, it has been recognized by all the countries of the world as one that has to be implemented. So it is not an impossible thing to achieve, and it is not strange, and everyone agrees that with the help of the resolution peace will be established in the region.

The question is: What endangers the peace in the area? The first thing that endangers peace and security in a region is when one country does not respect the territorial integrity of another. This lack of respect can manifest itself in a variety of ways. The worst way is for a country to make a move on one of its claims. For example, Saudi Arabia may believe that parts of North Yemen belong to the Saudis. In fact that is a belief, and they do claim that the northern, oil-rich parts of North Yemen belong to Saudia Arabia. Now, if Saudi Arabia started sending troops into North Yemen to give substance to that claim, that would be the biggest blow against peace and security.

Lack of respect of another country's territorial integrity can take other forms. One of them is if a country stops honoring the agreements it has reached with another

country—if it suddenly says that this agreement is unfair and has to be broken, if that country then says that it wants another agreement, not through legal and proper channels but through bribes.

Another way to endanger the security of a region is for one country to proclaim itself the policeman of the whole area. If that happens, the peace and stability of the area is threatened.

So if a country claims to want to see Resolution 598 implemented but at the same time takes no steps toward this, it means that it does not want to see the resolution implemented. What I mean is that our biggest problem is that Iraq does not want to see the resolution implemented. The reason for this lies in the three factors mentioned before regarding endangering regional peace. They all apply to Iraq's behavior and all contradict the spirit of Resolution 598. For example, Iraq has shown that it will not shrink from using its power to invade a neighbor's land. Well, that is the first problem.

Of course, that is not unique with respect to Iran. It exists with other countries as well. Iraq has invaded Kuwait before, and it has had problems with Saudi Arabia, with which it has recently signed a border agreement. Iraq has also had expansionist problems with Jordan, Turkey, and Syria. This means that Iraq is a country that has a problem regarding all its neighbors' territorial integrity. In the meantime, if it has the chance to use its power, it will do so. The current Iraqi Government will not respect international law either.

For example, if Iraq had claims on our land, these claims were declared null and void in the 1975 accord, which both countries signed. Furthermore, the agreement itself presents ways in which disputes can be resolved through proper legal channels. Now Iraq came and invaded our land. We cannot call that respect for international law.

More important than this is the fact that Iraq wants to impose itself as policeman of the region. If that happened peace would not mean anything. It would also mean that the countries that support Iraq's role as regional policeman were in fact undermining the area's peace and security. From its conception, the Ba'th Party has always sought leadership and supremacy in the Arab world. This is one of the Ba'thists' basic principles. In order to achieve this leading role, Iraq must first of all control Iran and must then become regional policeman. After that Iraq's aims do not end in the Persian Gulf: They will expand throughout the Arab world.

The role that Iraq is playing in Lebanon today is a realization of that goal. Iraq's goals in the war and in the establishment of the GCC are also along the same lines. So, the region's peace is under serious threat, and this issue is solely the result of the aims and goals pursued by Iraq in this area. I tell you very clearly: Any country that wants to become a policeman will immediately start having problems and will immediately clash with Iran.

If the other countries in the region are willing to put up with an area policemen because of their fear, Iran is not. As soon as the policeman starts to act like a policeman, there will be a clash. This is why I think that the USSR, the United States, Western Europe, and the countries in the region are making a mistake if they think it is to their advantage to have Iraq as this area's policeman to safeguard their interests. Accepting Saddam as policeman is like accepting the fact that peace and security will be endangered, perhaps even the groundwork prepared for another war—a war whose dimensions are not clear. These are the problems of the region's peace and security and Resolution 598—but there are even problems regarding implementing the resolution. These are just the dangers that I feel for the area.

Now, concerning Resolution 598 and how much we should rely on the United Nations—the truth is we never rely on the United Nations. We rely on our own rights. In accordance with the UN Charter the Security Council has the duty to act against the aggressor whenever there is aggression. This is even in the first clause of the Charter. Of course, we know that the council has nothing to do with the Un Charter. The Security Council is an international organization which works on the chemistry of diplomacy, and that chemistry has nothing to do with rights or truth: It has to do with the will of the countries that have the power.

However, none of this means that the Security Council or the UN secretary general cannot make progress in their work. We can always promote claims as a member of this international organization. As for your question about what we can rely on—we must rely on God and, in accordance with God's command, we have to make ourselves strong both militarily and politically. Islamic Iran has to be a strong Iran; it must rely on its own power. No one will shed tears if we lose our land except ourselves. It is we who are willing to die for each millimeter of our territory. Others will not feel sorry for us, and this is why in the next 10 years the defense strategy is a basic issue for our country. Our strategic defense planning is not done to capture any other country, but rather in order to safeguard our own territorial integrity.

There are some of our neighbors who are aggressive, and we have tasted that aggression even since the revolution. This is why we have to make ourselves strong. Our people sometimes have to agree to give up some necessary consumer goods so we can raise our defense capability. It is a hard choice, but it is a choice that, if accompanied by awareness, will be tolerated by the people. There are those who might say this is a militarist way of thinking. This means that I am planning for an Iran that achieves its goals through military means. Of course, there is no truth in that statement. Militarism means using your military might to impose your political control on other countries.

We do not wish to gain control over other nations, and we do not want our political aims to go forward with the

help of military might. We see that our dignity has been violated, we see that our land is under enemy occupation, so we have to have adequate defense capability and power.

If you ask how I see the future of the peace talks regarding the implementation of Resolution 598, I will have to answer the question in connection with the future of peace in the region, because these talks are part of the process of peace and security in this region. I believe that the world will have to accept our logic and our just demands in the end. It is not worth it for the powers that exist in the region to have no peace in this area.

Our region is a region of controls. Its geography is very simple. Some of the countries are under the control of Britain, some are under U.S. control, and Iraq has been under Soviet control. This is the local geography. First of all these countries want to keep their influence, and second they want to expand this influence. From this geography we reach the dynamics of control in the region. This means that we can read accurately the changes in the region, because the intentions are quite clear.

The language of countries that want to exert control is nothing but bullying. One cannot talk to them to tell them that they have no right to be here, that they should leave. I want to talk to them in their own language, to tell them that it is not in their interest to clash with the Islamic Republic; it is not in their interest for the region to be insecure. For the countries that have control in the world it is better to implement Resolution 598. It is a very stupid game they are playing. They do not have the option of either not implementing the resolution or imposing something on Iran. They have the option of having war or peace in the region. They have the option of either having stability or instability in the region. They must not make the mistake of thinking that they can now impose something on Iran. that is not the case.

Resolution 598 has to be seen within the framework and spirit of peace and security, even if it is only a piece of paper. So the countries that have control in this region have to see logic. This is why I am positive about the future and why I believe that it is not in Iraq's interest to ignore the resolution. Recently Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that if Iraq does not implement Resolution 598, it will sacrifice its own national security. This is very true. Nonimplementation of the resolution is not something in Iraq's interest; it means no peace in the region, and if there is no peace there will be some who will be victims including, perhaps more than others, Iraq itself.

[RESALAT] You said that you thought that we have to become strong in terms of defensive power and that this will be our path in the next 10 years. How is this possible? Could we do this by just buying sophisticated weapons and defensive systems? This is exactly what Iraq has been doing since the cease-fire. Apart from this, are there other reasons for strengthening the Islamic Republic?

[Larijani] Well, one of your questions is what kind of defense policy we should have. Your other question is where we should put this defense doctrine in terms of our national strategy.

So, to see what kind of defense doctrine we should have is an independent issue, which is technical and very important. I must tell you that during the imposed war, one of the most important achievements of the people's defense was that we showed we could dissipate the effects of very expensive weaponry by using inexpensive techniques. Our defense doctrine is not based on having the latest equipment but on using the best talent, and it is dependent on the power of the people.

In reality, we could have a really good defense strategy into which we could fit the experiences of other peoples of the world and other revolutions, especially the ones that are Islamic in nature. Then there should be Iranian elements added as well, Iranian genius. Iran is not a country that is inexperienced in military matters. Iran is really a country of great generals. Our race is not a race of cowards who have never fought, who have never seen blood. This land has seen many great military leaders and great military brains through the years. Some 2,000 years ago we took our Army from Iran to Rome and to Greece, and 700,000 men fought there. Can you imagine the logistics involved? If you want to move 5,000 men from one place to another, you have to think about their food, their lodgings, their spiritual readiness, their hardware—and you have problems. Now, take 700,000 men from Iran to Greece, on foot. That shows the Iranian genius.

Since Islam we have had military genius. I think that Nader Shah Afshar had a great military mind. Of course, he was not perfect. He could not be used as a role model in religious matters or thinking, because for that we have the prophets. We know whom we should follow. But in the military world, look at Nader Shah Afshar. He was a strong leader, he was also a strong strategist. When he captured India he did not put one Iranian at the head of local affairs in India. He put in the same sultan who was there before. This showed that Nader Shah did not think of India and its capture as a military act, but that he had a special purpose in mind.

We have had other leaders; so a country with such a past has to have its own military doctrine. I recognize this to be a very great need. I believe that during the war our children at the fronts achieved some very great things, some of which they did not even know about. I told some of their commanders at various meetings and sessions, I explained it all to them, and I compared some of their military operations with similar actions and showed them how much more successful they had been when compared with others. Well, this is the kind of nation we are.

The question that is more important is where in our national strategy our defense policy is going to fit. How much importance should we give it? In other words, how much money should we spend on it? In reply to this question, we must say that we have three sources from which we take our national strategy. The first is our position within the Islamic world. This means Iran must not be limited by its geographic boundaries. This does not mean that we want to capture other countries, but rather that our situation is described within the framework of the Islamic world, as opposed to a land bounded by geographic boundaries.

Some 5 years ago I wrote an article called "Um-al-Qora." This is the theory of "Um-al-Qora", which means that Iran is not a country among Islamic countries. Today we face a geographic division of the world which has no justice, which has a very bitter past. Now, should we accept these frontiers or not? As far as geography is concerned, we accept the borders not because they are correct or just, but because not accepting them would cause problems for Islam. There would be war and bloodshed. So we accept the world's geographic boundaries in order to avoid trouble.

Our Islamic responsibility does not go away. This responsibility passes across borders, and this is the summary of the "Um-al-Qora" theory. We cannot overlook this in our national strategy. It is the source of our strategy. We have to plan our policies and our diplomacy in such a way that they match our position in the Islamic world. We have a huge position in the Islamic world. No country other than Iran can lead the Islamic world, and this is a historical position.

Our second basic strategy is our defensive power. This means Iran's defense policy has to be such that no one would want to attack Iran, to trample our rights under their feet. To reach that power and that position we have to spend money, and this is part of our national strategy.

The third point is the prosperity and well-being of Iran. We cannot ignore or by-pass this issue. Iran must be a prosperous country. Its lands and fields must be full of produce. We must not only grow our own food but must also provide food for other countries. Our factories must not only be modern, they must be profitable, with high levels of production. We shall call this "Iran's progress program," which goes a lot further than "reconstruction."

Our national strategy is based on these three principles. I believe that any other matter has to be connected to these things. These three basic things are at the root of all our decisionmaking, and all three can be carried out at the same time, which means that we cannot sacrifice one for the sake of the other. The art of executing this strategy is doing the three things at the same time. The planning is very hard and takes hours and many days of thought to prepare.

Just as we are ready to spend money for our international position, for our defense position, we shall also spend money on the prosperity of the country. The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic has to be based on this factor. Any move that is made by us in the foreign arena has to be for our success in terms of our international standing, for our defensive power and for the prosperity and progress of our nation.

[RESALAT] Do you think that Iraq has the geographic position to be a policeman in the region for the superpowers?

[Larijani] There are two questions involved here: to see if the superpowers and Iraq think that Iraq could be made into a policeman; and, second, whether or not I think that Iraq can play that role. My view is that not only geography and the people, but also Iran's political situation and the importance of Iran will act as the most important barriers to Iraq's becoming a policeman. This means that, no matter how much power they pump into Iraq, with the existence of a strong Iran, Iraq can never be a regional policeman. Even if the whole region is set on fire, Iraq will not be a policeman.

But it is possible that some other countries would not be worried about Iraq's becoming a policeman, because Iraq is their base and, if Iraq gains control in the region, it will be as if these other powers had gained control. So these countries are saying: If it happens, it happens; if not, we have no problems because even if the whole region is set on fire the oil supply will not be cut.

But there are other countries in this geographic situation which are dependent on its oil. If the price to pay to keep a regional policeman is low, they will pay—of course, there is a limit to how much they will pay. This is the second reason why Saddam will never get his wish, because his price is never low. I believe this cannot be achieved at any price, even though this is the basis on which Saddam has put all his policies.

[RESALAT] We had a policy to expand our relations and to conduct our relations. It seemed that we were expanding our relations with Western Europe and the Soviet Union, but minus the United States. After the Salman Rushdie affair, this issue came to a standstill. How do you think our relations could be with Western countries?

[Larijani] The three main points that I discussed earlier for our national strategy speak for themselves. Apart from relations that are dominated by one party seeking control, which is not in any way acceptable, our ties with other countries have to be useful to us in any or all three of the ways mentioned earlier. Will these relations have a positive result on our standing in the Islamic world? Will they be useful toward organizing a good defense for Iran? Will they be good for us, politically, militarily and in terms of Iran's prosperity? That is when we decide to have relations with a country and at what level the ties should be. Western Europe can help in this field, and relations with us are also beneficial to them.

As long as there is no talk of control, it can be dealt with. As soon as you bring up the issue of control, the entire

project collapses. The dialectic of our relations with the world is very clear. We cannot overlook the possibility of someone wanting to gain control over us. In this regard, if the other party puts on a very innocent face, in the final analysis he may have the wish to control us.

We have to tighten the screws really tight so as not to allow even the slightest hope of control. I think that there are no more than three or at the most four countries who have always sought to control us—as soon as they have approched us. For example, if there was talk of bilateral relations, they would first ask us about our ties with another, third country. Well, this means wanting to be boss. If you want relations with us, what business is it of yours what kind of relations we have with this other country? This only has one meaning, and that is: If you want ties with me, you have to be under my supervision.

Even this supervision and being under the wing of another country has varying degrees. The United States is one of those countries which has always meant to control, each time it has tried to contact us—and there have been many efforts. So we have told them a big "no," and they have left after losing their dignity.

The British have been the same. During the past year or two they have started to claim that they did not seek to control us and wanted to work within the framework of mutual respect. During extensive talks in Vienna we reached the agreement that there should only be mutual respect and that that was the only thing which should guide our relations. But the British could not control themselves. The Salman Rushdie affair directly contradicted this. Where in the world can someone's insults against the holiest principles of a country be considered as showing respect for a nation?

Of course there can be sensible relations for the interest of the British and Iranian peoples. I predict that in the next decade Iran will have a unique position in the Islamic world and will have a high defense capability and high economic prosperity. In that case, countries of the world will have no choice but to have peaceful relations with us. My other prediction is that in the next decade we shall witness equal agreements between Iran and powerful countries because they will give up trying to control us.

[RESALAT] It seems that each time Western Europe moves in the direction of having sensible relations with the Islamic Republic, the United States tries in one way or another to disrupt these relations. Keeping in mind the internal factions within those countries which may want to sour relations with us, what policies could be implemented to avoid wasting time and resources, to establish fair and logical relations with Western Europe?

[Larijani] The best position is the one we took during the Rushdie affair. I think that the Rushdie affair was planned by the United States and by Zionism to deliver a blow against Iran. The United States and Zionism have the biggest fear of our position in the Islamic world. The position taken by the late imam in the Rushdie affair, which was a political masterpiece, exactly reversed the plot hatched by the Americans and the Zionists. This means that this affair had no effect but to raise our standing in the Islamic world. This in itself in a way vaccinated us. If in the future they make the same mistake again, if we take the same position that the imam took, we will reverse their position and their plot.

It is also true that both the United States and Zionism are determined that Iran should not become prosperous or powerful. They are scared of our having ties with Western Europe. Why? What is the main reason behind Europe's moving toward becoming a continent of 350 million people? Western Europe is no longer the United States' primary trade partner. This means that U.S. foreign trade has moved toward the Pacific. So in order for Western Europe to have prosperity, there are two solutions. Either they have to consume their own products, or else they have to find a market for them. This is why Europe is trying to find a market in the Soviet Union, independent of the United States. They are after markets in the Middle East, including the Persian Gulf. So it is in the interest of Western Europe to have peace in the Persian Gulf, so that they can have good relations with everyone. This is exactly against U.S. interests, and this is why the Americans stir things up once in a while. It is up to Western Europe to decide for itself.

[RESALAT] Could there be bilateral agreements arranged from our side so that when Western European countries want to establish ties with us, they know that they will not be able to make any moves that may be against our interests? Do you not think that this would have prevented incidents such as the one that occurred with Britain?

[Larijani] This was predicted in our ties with Britain. It was the British who could not control themselves. So we make these conditions in our ties with other countries, but there is no guarantee that things will happen according to those rules. In general, establishing ties is not just simply for the sake of having ties. These can also be broken, depending on our interests. Incidentally, I want to say that the gains we had from our ties with Britian were very good because it showed them that when it comes to Islam Iran will pay a high price and is not willing to compromise on that issue. How could Britain learn that lesson? I do not think there could have been a better way. This situation could also be a good framework for our future relations with other countries.

[RESLALAT] Following the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd and the execution of the American colonel, the possibility of a clash with the United States increased. But in this process, it seems that the hostage issue is coming closer to being solved politically. Do the recent events indicate the beginning of a solution to the hostage issue politically?

[Larijani] I think that there is an even more important issue here, and that is the similarity between the kidnapping of the shaykh and the "Satanic Verses." Israel

kidnapped the shaykh exactly on the same day that there was a presidential election in Iran. Put this in the general picture of the world's understanding of Iran. The world and especially Western Europe thinks that it can see the future of the Islamic Republic clearly. This is why they were all worried about how they were going to improve their ties with Iran. This is exactly what is worrying the Jews and Zionists. They wanted to sully the image of Iran, to pin the label of terrorism on Iran. I believe that this time the issue is turning out exactly opposite to what they predicted.

Of course, solving the hostage crisis in Lebanon has always been one of our basic policies. We have tried time and time again to mediate to solve the hostage issue. But it was always the other side, the Americans and the Israelis, who did something to turn things around. But this time they came and fell into the pot of their own accord. If the result of the issue is that the Western hostages are freed, the Muslim hostages, either Iranian or Lebanese, will also be released. I think that that would be a great achievement for the Islamic world. It would then become clear that Iran has always worked for humanity.

[RESALAT] What do you think about the balance of power between the Maronites and the nationalist-Islamic forces in Lebanon? Is there any hope that Lebanon can emerge from of its present crisis?

[Larijani] If the future of Lebanon goes ahead with the nationalist and Islamic forces, then it will be a lasting future; otherwise the balance of power will only be temporary and can be upset at any time. The situation in Lebanon is very interesting at the moment. On the one hand we see that Iraq and Michel 'Awn and the Israelis are working in a very strange alliance. Not even Egypt has ever come as far with the Israelis as the Iraqis have come now. On the other hand the Jewish lobby and Zionism in the United States have recently started to support Iraq. This is the same group that until yesterday considered Iraq a black spot, attacked its atomic reactor, and so forth. Now they think that Iraq is their stable and strong ally.

It seems that U.S. and Zionist policy is that Iraq and the Arab Cooperation Council can form a coordinated body with the Zionists in the region. On the other hand it seems that the Soviet role in Lebanon has increased greatly, because the Soviets now have a strong element on both sides of the hostilities. They have Syria on the Muslim side and they have Iraq on the Zionist and Maronite side. So the prediction is that the Soviets will become much more active in Lebanon.

Does this help peace? One cannot predict that too much. One thing that can be predicted is that there will be more serious talks in the future about Lebanon between the United States and the Soviet Union. There will also be expanded relations between Israel and the Soviet Union in the future.

[RESALAT] Dr Larijani, we thank you for your time.

Naval College Courses Commence at Rasht Complex

NC2308115089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] Nine specialized courses and one advanced course began, and two instruction laboratories commenced operation yesterday in the presence of Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces, at the Rasht Naval Training Complex.

The Central News Unit reports from Rasht that these courses include one advanced course for electricity and weaponry and nine specialized courses for seamanship, internal communications, fire control, heavy electricity, personnel, steam boilers and machinery, and diesel motors. These courses are being offered for the first time since the victory of the Islamic revolution to officers, NCO's and the naval cadre at the Rasht Naval Training Complex.

It should be noted that currently four advanced and 28 specialized courses are being offered at the complex.

Ministry Official To Head Regional Energy Group

LD2308220189 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Dr 'Ali Shams-Ardekani, a member of Institute for International Political Studies of Iran's Foreign Ministry was assigned as president of the newly founded Asian Energy Institute [AEI]. The AEI was inaugurated in New Delhi Friday, with members from 11 Asian countries. [passage omitted]

Repair Depot for F-14 Aircraft Opens in Esfahan

LD2408204289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The first phase of the electronics repairs depot of F-14 aircraft was installed and made operational by the personnel from Martyr Baba'i zone of Esfahan. This system is comprised of modern computers and sophisticated electronics and communications systems, which, while increasing the combat-ability of F-14 aircraft, can also manufacture that aircraft's electronics parts—as well as that of other fighter planes—supply radar parts at the same level of the manufacturing factory, and reconstruct and improve radar systems. Furthermore, with the installation of that electronics depot, the possibility for creation of a center for research as well as manufacture of elecronics and macro-wave parts has been brought about.

According to that report, the equipment of that system was located at the eighth fighter plane base before the revolution, and it was planned that it should be installed and operated under the supervision of U.S. military advisers. However, with the victory of Islamic revolution, that plan was suspended, while up to the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] that equipment

remained unidentified and lacked catalogues. From that year onward, research work began on the equipment. After the research was finished, work on installation and operation, as well as on preparing the proper location, began in 1366 by personnel from the battalion responsible for maintenance of F-14's from the Fighter Brigade situated in Martyr Baba'i zone. Despite the shortage of technical books and parts, as well as problems existing in the system itself, it was made operational in less than two years to be used by the country's Air Force.

An American company had planned to install and operate the system at a cost of $100 million. The operation of that system was today inspected by Brigadier General Sattari, commander of Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force.

Bakhtaran Refinery Doubles Nominal Capacity

LD2308204889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] With a daily refining capacity of 30,000 barrels of crude, the Bakhtaran refinery has doubled its nominal capacity.

In an interview with the Central News Unit, the director of the Bakhtaran Refinery, stating the above, explained the reconstruction plan and the trend of the rise in output of the refinery. He added: At present the Bakhtaran refinery produces 60 tons of liquified gas, 70,000 liters of kerosene, 900,000 litres of gasoil, 70,000 liters of petrol and 2.3 million liters of kiln oil a day. That capacity, in addition to meeting the fuel needs of the province, provides part of the fuel needed by the neighboring provinces.

Among projects under implementation in the Bakhtaran refinery he cited the project on installation and commission of the equipment for extraction-in-vacuum [as heard] and the lowering of gravity—a project that will lead to an increased output. He added: Once this equipment comes on line the refinery will add tar to the list of its by-products.

Bakhtaran Cement Plant Becomes Operational

NC2308120089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Recorded telephone report by unidentified correspondent in Bakhtaran]

[Text] Thanks to the strong hands of our country's workers, the reconstruction of the Bakhtaran cement plant, which was damaged during the imposed war, has been completed. The production of the plant has increased from 2,000 tonnes to 2,300 tonnes daily.

This was stated by the Gharb cement plant manager in an interview with a correspondent from the central news unit. He also stated that since cement production plays a significant role in the country's reconstruction, the damaged parts of the plant were reconstructed and became operational with a 500-million rial credit, and now cement production has increased 28 percent compared with the same period last year. He then described the method of cement production in the plant and added: With the efforts of the workers of this industrial unit, the capacity of the plant's (?mill) is now 180 tonnes an hour, which is an unprecedented figure, so much so that during the first 5 months of the current [Iranian] year 253,803 tonnes of cement were manufactured. In addition to supplying the cement needs of the province, this quantity of cement also meets part of the needs of neighboring provinces such as Hamadan, Kordestan, and Ilam.

The cement plant manager added in conclusion: In the current [Iranian] year, the reconstruction of the plants power generator and the sack-sewing unit will be completed with a 500-million rial credit. Also, the plan for the expansion of the plant with an 8-billion rial credit is being implemented. It is hoped that once this plan is completed, the Gharb cement plants output will be doubled.

This is the correspondent of the Central News Unit in Bakhtaran.

Nepal

King Suspends Parliament Session 40 Days Early

BK2508000889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1856 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 24 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal on Thursday [24 August] prorogued the 40th Session of the National Panchayat (Parliament) two weeks early after it passed a 20.2 billion rupee (736 million dollar) budget for fiscal 1989. Chairman of the National Panchayat, Nawa Raj Subedi, announced the suspension of the session citing a constitutional provision which gives Nepal's monarch the right of prorogation.

Besides the budget for fiscal 1989 ending next July, several important bills, including a controversial amendment of the Press and Publication Act, were also passed by the legislative body. The amendment introduced stringent measures against criticism of the government voiced with malicious intent and without any proof or evidence. Under the amendment, violators will be subject to two years imprisonment compared to the previous punishment of a nominal monetary fine.

The early suspension of the National Panchayat was an apparent bid to ease pressure on Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha, who has come under fire from opposition leaders for his failure to tackle trade and transit problems with India and check official corruption. A strong opposition group comprising former Prime Ministers Lokendra Bahadur Chand and Surya Bahadur Thapa, and former ministers who had served under the Shrestha government, was demanding that the premier step down. Due to the harsh criticism, Mr.

Subedi had been conducting only one session of the National Panchayat a week since mid-July.

Authorities Release 3 Newsmen, Political Activist

BK1808103689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT 18 Aug 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 18 (AFP)—A journalist and a young political activist were released from detention and two other journalists were released on bail in the last two days, a concerned source said Friday. Chandra Lal Jha, editor and publisher of the NEPAL TIMES, and Pradeep Giri, a democracy advocate, were arrested following India's March 23 trade blockade against landlocked Nepal.

The two allegedly instigated students to stage a large demonstration on April 2 in which left-wing students denounced Indian "hegemonism" and democracy advocates protested against the Nepalese political system. The government, however, has failed to substantiate the allegation and apparently released the pair on Thursday after detaining them for more than four months without pressing charges.

Meanwhile, two other Nepalese journalists, both for the weekly BARTALAP (dialogue), were released after being detained one month for an article which was deemed to be against Nepal's national sovereignty. The pair, editor M. Sharma and columnist Chandra Mani Gautam, were released on bail of 1,000 rupees (36 U.S. dollars). They are to be tried under the State Offences Act, a concerned source said.

India's Rao Arrives, Discusses Ties

BK2508082489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, has said that India has been constantly in favor of an open, frank, and comprehensive dialogue on all outstanding issues with Nepal. Talking to newsmen at the airport on his arrival at Kathmandu from New Delhi this morning, he said our goal was and remains to have a relationship with Nepal free of distortions and misconceptions and one which is reciprocal and mutually beneficial.

Mr Narasimha Rao pointed out that our efforts in recent times have not succeeded to the extent desired and said it will be a matter of satisfaction if that phase comes to an end now.

Pakistan

Airliner Disappears After Takeoff From Gilgit

BK2508103489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1030 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 25 (AFP)—A Pakistani airliner carrying 44 passengers and five crew disappeared shortly after taking off from an airport in northern Pakistan Friday, officials said. They said the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Fokker aircraft took off in cloudy skies at 7.35 a.m. (0235 GMT) from the northern city of Gilgit, in the Karakoram mountain range, on a flight to Islamabad. The last contact with the plane's pilots was 18 minutes after take-off, they said. The officials could not say if there were any foreigners on board.

An emergency was declared at Gilgit airport and a Pakistan Air Force C-130 plane dispatched from Islamabad to carry out a search in the area, which borders India, China and Afghanistan. Police were also searching for the plane, the officials said.

Search Continues

BK2508131089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] A PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] Fokker, which took off from Gilgit for Islamabad this morning, is missing.

A spokesman of the civil aviation department told Radio Pakistan that air and ground search for the plane is going on. The plane had on board 44 passengers and a crew of five. The spokesman said lady passengers also had five infants with them.

Cheema Says Troops at Siachen in 'Better Position'

BK2408161289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Defense of Pakistan Day will be observed on 6 September in a fitting manner. The outstanding performance of gallantry and bravery by the Armed Forces will be highlighted on the occasion. Colonel, retired, Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, the minister of state for defense, told newsmen in Rawalpindi today that additional ceremonies will be held during the Defense of Pakistan Day this year. A national-level rally in Rawalpindi, in which all sections of society will participate, will constitute the special event of the day. It will be addressed by the prime minister. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question, Col Cheema said that Pakistani forces in the Siachen region are now in a better position and they are capable of overcoming all sorts of difficulties. He said that the prime minister, during her recent visit to the region, announced a fund of 10 million rupees for the welfare of families of martyrs of Siachen. The government will soon announce a board of trustees for the fund.

Agreement Reached on Soviet Credit for Steel Plant

BK2408115589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] The Soviet Union is to provide a concessional credit of $100 million for expansion of Pakistan Steel. An agreement to this effect was reached between the two countries in Islamabad today. It is expected to be signed

in the 2d week of October when the minister of state for production, Raja Shahid Zafar, will visit Moscow.

Sri Lankan Commerce Minister Leads Delegation

Holds Talks With Counterpart

BK2208034189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] The commerce ministers of Pakistan and Sri Lanka held talks on bilateral issues in Islamabad yesterday. The Pakistani minister of commerce, Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat, made a proposal to review the possibilities of bilateral cooperation. The Sri Lankan commerce minister, A.R. Mansoor, said that the economic policies of Pakistan and Sri Lanka are similar because both the countries are working for the betterment of the poor sections of the society.

Trade Relations Viewed

BK2208145589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 22 Aug 89

[Text] A six-member Sri Lankan delegation led by Trade and Shipping Minister A.R. Mansoor called on Minister of State for Finance and Economic Affairs Ehsanul Haq Piracha in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on ways to promote trade relations and economic cooperation between the two countries. The possibility of holding the next meeting of the Pakistan-Sri Lanka joint economic commission in Colombo was also examined during the talks. Ehsanul Haq Piracha stressed the need for exchanging trade delegations to increase the mutually beneficial trade between the two countries.

Received by Bhutto, Ishaq Khan

BK2308163189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Aug 89

[Text] The minister of trade and shipping of Sri Lanka, Mr A.R. Mansoor, called on the president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today and delivered to him a letter from the Sri Lankan president, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa. They also exchanged views on bilateral relations as well as matters of mutual interest, including the situation in the region.

The Sri Lankan minister also called on the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, and delivered a letter from the Sri Lankan president. Mr Mansoor conveyed deep gratitude of the Sri Lankan president to the prime minister for expressing solidarity with Sri Lanka by Pakistan. The prime minister, recalling the traditional friendly relations between the two countries, expressed Pakistan's readiness to extend all possible assistance to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka

Emergency Extended; Pursuit of Rebels Vowed

BK2408125889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1239 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 24 (AFP)—Sri Lankan security forces will "relentlessly" pursue anti-government rebels and "annihilate" them, a senior official vowed in Parliament Thursday [24 August], a day after gunmen killed 19 at a southern fishing port.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said that "in the larger interest of the 16.5 million population, troops and police will relentlessly go behind the terrorists and annihilate them."

Mr. Wijeratne, who is also junior defence minister, said President Ranasinghe Premadasa had on five occassions offered talks with the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP), or People's Liberation Front, but there had been no response.

"The JVP is still in the jungles.... We cannot show any compassion towards them," Mr. Wijeratne said, adding that the rebels had met their "Waterloo" by threatening families of security forces. "See what will happen to these jokers," he said during a debate on extending the state of emergency a month. Parliament approved the extension with a vote of 110 to 77. [passage omitted]

'Continuing Violence' Claims 23 More Lives

BK2408140089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Aug 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 23 more people have died in continuing violence across the country. Agency reports quoting military spokesman in Colombo say 12 unidentified bodies with bullet wounds were recovered in the central Kandy District.

The spokesman said the victims included police personnel, JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] extremists, and civilians killed by the extremists.

Rebels Call Strike Against Government 'Genocide'

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[Text] Colombo, Aug 25 (AFP)—Sinhalese rebels Friday [25 August] called for a week-long national strike to protest "terrible genocide" by the Sri Lankan Government as officials and newspapers said dozens of bodies had been found across the island. The people should stop all work, close shops, stay inside their homes and hoist red and white flags for a week from Monday, the rebel Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) said in a statement.

The strike was to protest the "terrible genocide" by the government, and the group's national action committee had been asked to organise it, the statement signed by

JVP Chairman Rohana Wijeweera and his deputy, Upatissa Gamanayake, said. The two leaders have been carrying on a violent anti-government campaign from underground since Colombo signed a peace agreement with India in July 1987 which sought to end Tamil separatism in the island.

The JVP, which is violently opposed to the peace pact and the stationing of some 43,000 Indian troops in the island, is accused of killing more than 2,500 government supporters and rivals during the last two years.

The statement said the strike was also to protest the presence of the Indian "occupation force" in the island's Tamil-populated north and east and the killings of "infants and old" by them. It renewed its call to all "patriotic" members of the security forces and employees of the official media to quit so that they could "deal with mercenaries, traitors and murderers" who remained.

Meanwhile, military officials said 27 bodies had been found in different parts of the island since Wednesday in continuing violence, but Colombo dailies put the figure between 40 and 55.

The state-controlled DAILY NEWS said 36 more bodies had been found in different parts of the southern Matara and Hambantota Districts after armed men shot dead 19 people and wounded 25 at a fishing port in the area late Wednesday. It quoted eye-witnesses, who had managed to escape the shooting at the Tangalle fishing port, as saying that it was carried out by a group of men in military-type uniforms. Residents, contacted by telephone, had alleged that security forces were responsible for the shooting at Tangalle.

"That same night the bodies of 11 youths were found at Dickwella, while 25 more bodies were found at Walasmulla, Katuwana, Kirama, Mideniya and Weeraketiya," DAILY NEWS said.

"Bus travellers arriving in Tangalle and Matara claimed they had seen 11 charred bodies flung on burning tyres in Dickwella," it added.

Another English-language daily, THE SUN, said around 40 burning bodies were found in pits and on roadsides throughout the country during the last 24 hours.

It quoted the police as saying that most of the victims were youths, who had apparently been shot dead before being set alight.

The paper said 20 of the bodies had been found in Southern Province, adding that plastic utensils and rubber tyres had been used extensively to burn them.

"Many of the bodies were still smouldering at the time of detection," it said quoting the police.

A military official said, "there have been reports about the discovery of bodies, but it takes time for us to get all the reports."

"No one is really interested to know who is responsible for the killings," he said in reply to a question, but added that "some sort of inquiry" had been ordered into the incident at Tangalle fishing harbour.

He said both the security forces and the police would be making inquiries.

The bodies were apparently disposed of by municipal workers or the police and in some cases by relatives.

"I have heard a story where a mother had taken away two legs from a pile of mutilated bodies and cremated them, saying they were her son's," the official said.

A government communique Friday said 736 suspected subversives, the official term for JVP rebels, had been taken in for questioning across the island during the last 24 hours by the security forces.

It said among those rounded up were two soldiers and a person dressed as a Buddhist monk.

The communique also said the rebels shot dead seven civilians and set fire to a bus in seperate incidents, while the security forces killed four subversives during search operations in two places.

Another subversive was killed when a bomb exploded in a house near the north-western Puttalam town while it was being tested, it added.